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SOCCEROOS v SOUTH AFRICA nab MONDAY 26 MAY 2014 ANZ STADIUM

THE SOCCEROO

ISSUE: 26 $10.00

AUSTRALIA

BRING ON BRAZIL!

ANGE POSTECOGLOU
The man hand-picked to be the saviour of the Socceroos reveals his World Cup plans, hopes and dreams

DELIGHT OF THE JEDI
Mile Jedinak on the amazing season of his life - from his Premier League debut to captaining the Socceroos

THE SOCCEROOS FOR RIO
The best in the world await us in Brazil – now it's up to Generation Ange to show what they can do for their country

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AUSTRALIA

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IT'S ON! IN SYDNEY

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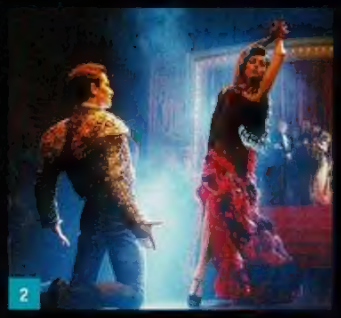

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Vivid Sydney
A unique annual event of light, music and ideas, featuring extraordinary outdoor light sculptures.
Various locations across Sydney
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2

Strictly Ballroom The Musical
The much-loved Australian film that inspired the world to dance comes to life on stage.
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3

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Enjoy the best features, docos and short films from across Australia and around the world.
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4 - 15 June

4

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ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park
10 August

5

V8 Supercars Sydney Motorsport Park 400
Round nine of the V8 Supercars Championship.
Sydney Motorsport Park
22 - 24 August

6

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FRANK LOWY

Welcome to Sydney for our official 2014 FIFA World Cup farewell match against South Africa here at ANZ Stadium.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our friends from South Africa who are returning to Australia after a lengthy absence. I'm sure that their stay in Sydney will be a very enjoyable one.

It has been 20 years since we last hosted South Africa here in Australia. At that time we played two matches in Adelaide and Sydney as part of the Nelson Mandela Friendship tournament. Our football relationship at international level dates back to 1947 and may it long continue into the future.

Much has happened since those days and it seems like only yesterday that we were in South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup which was a fantastic event.

Turning our attention to the Socceroos, tonight is the last chance for all fans to say farewell to the team before they head to Brazil for the 2014 FIFA World Cup – the biggest sporting event on the planet.

We are very proud of our nation's achievement of qualifying for a fourth appearance at the FIFA World Cup and our third in succession.

We are rebuilding the Socceroos to develop a new Golden Generation. I am sure that these players will represent Australia with passion and pride against the world's best.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Socceroos, Head Coach Ange Postecoglou and the entire team delegation all the best for the tournament.

In closing I would like to thank all our partners for their ongoing support and contribution to hosting tonight's match.

My best wishes to both teams for what I am sure will be a competitive and enjoyable match for all.

Frank Lowy AC
CHAIRMAN
FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

We are very proud of qualifying for a fourth appearance at the FIFA World Cup and our third in succession...

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

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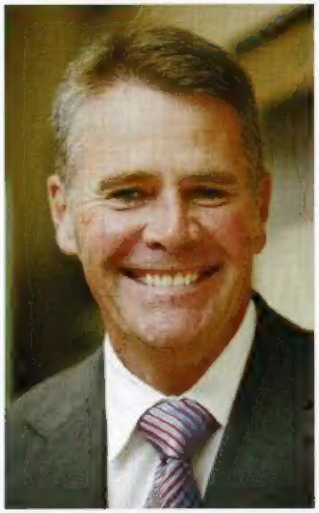

ANDREW STONER

Sydney is the perfect city to send off the Socceroos to the 2014 FIFA World Cup

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Sydney's ANZ Stadium for the Australia v South Africa friendly farewell football match.

I hope you're ready to cheer on the Socceroos as they take on South Africa in their last game on home soil before heading to Brazil for the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Sydney, Australia's global tourism and events city, is a fitting destination to send off our national football team.

This is yet another major events win for NSW and adds to the long list of events the NSW Government has secured for Western Sydney since coming to office.

The NSW Government has worked hard to ensure NSW has hosted the majority of the Socceroos matches, including the last vital qualifying match against Iraq in June last year, tonight's game, and a week's training camp on the Central Coast.

Enjoy tonight's game and make sure you cheer on our heroes before they jet off to represent our nation at the world's largest football competition - go the Socceroos!

Andrew Stoner MP
NSW DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT
MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS

NSW NOW The new state of business

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THE GIFT
JUST WHAT THEY ALWAYS WANTED
Loved by over 8000 stores.
VISIT CONCIERGE
Westfield GIFT CARDS
IN CENTRE. ONLINE. MOBILE.

DAVID GALLOP

Tonight, we will witness once again the way the Socceroos can unite our nation like no other representative team.

Australia in all its diversity can feel connected to football and the players who proudly wear the Green and Gold.

The match against South Africa will help the Socceroos prepare for the challenge of competing against the best in the world at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, while the occasion will bolster their spirits for the challenge ahead.

Under the stewardship of Head Coach Ange Postecoglou, I am confident that the Socceroos will do us proud in Brazil. The world will see football played the Australian way, with courage and attacking flair.

Looking beyond Brazil, there is plenty to be excited about in Australian football in Australia. In a few months' time, the inaugural Westfield FFA Cup kicks off in July, the Italian champions Juventus FC will face the Foxtel A-League All Stars here at ANZ Stadium in August, in October we will start the 10th season of the Hyundai A-League and in January the Final of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup will be held in this very venue.

In women's football, there's great excitement that the Westfield Matildas last week qualified for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada and the Westfield W-League continues to go from strength to strength.

In closing I would like to thank all our sponsors, particularly our broadcast partners Fox Sports. Their support and the support of all of our partners give us the platform to grow the sport which is truly appreciated by all within the Football Family.

My best wishes to both teams for what I am sure will be a competitive and enjoyable match for all.

David Gallop
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

The Socceroos can unite our diverse nation like no other representative team

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

THE BIG PICTURE

TIMMY DOES IT AGAIN!

Socceroo legend Tim Cahill celebrates as he smashes the long-standing, all-time Socceroos goal-scoring record against Ecuador in London last March. He opened the scoring after just 10 minutes and added another to his tally before the half hour mark. The match saw a second half turnaround to end 4-3 to Ecuador, but Cahill's brace meant he's now scored 31 goals in 67 appearances.

ROUND-UP

A round-up of the latest happenings in Aussie football

Westfield Matildas qualify for 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup

The Westfield Matildas booked their place at next year's FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada thanks to a run of good results as they defended their AFC Women's Asian Cup crown in Vietnam.

Wins over Vietnam and Jordan, and a draw against reigning world champions Japan, ensured the Westfield Matildas automatically qualified for the FIFA Women's World Cup for a sixth time and keep their AFC Women's Asian Cup title defence alive.

Interim Head Coach Alen Stajcic was justifiably proud of his players. "They've qualified for the FIFA Women's World Cup and now we've really got to focus on improving our football so we can be a threat at that next year," he said.

"The three objectives coming in were to qualify for the World Cup, win the Asian Cup and improving our football."

Football Federation Australia CEO David Gallop congratulated the Westfield Matildas.

"Having seen first-hand the tough, hot and humid conditions they are currently playing in at the AFC Women's Asian Cup, this is a fantastic achievement," said Gallop.

"We look forward to supporting the Westfield Matildas for the remainder of the tournament as they hope to defend their AFC Women's Asian Cup Champions title."

The 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup will be held in Canada from June 6 to July 5, 2015.

Twins get the jump on new mascot

Brisbane twins Tom and Harrison Searle won an Australia-wide competition to design the Socceroos' official mascot and travelled to the team's training camp fan day in Gosford to help unveil the design.

Football Federation Australia and official vitamin partner, Cenovis, offered Australians a once in a lifetime opportunity to design the first official mascot for the Socceroos.

The judging panel of Socceroo Tim Cahill, Head Coach Ange Postecoglou, FFA CEO David Gallop and Luke Fitzgerald from Cenovis poured over entries from all over the country and named the 11-year-old Searle twins as winners.

The Socceroos mascot was designed with one of Australia's iconic symbols, the Kangaroo, in mind. Now their design has become a reality and named Maloo.

"Harrison and I thought it would be good to base our design on the shape of a Kangaroo, especially because it's for the Socceroos," said Tom Searle.

"It took us a day to work together on the research and design of the mascot," said Harrison Searle. "We are really happy that our design was chosen and that we get to see him with the Socceroos over the next few months."

"As a judge I saw some really great entries and it was so good to see Australia get behind designing the first ever Socceroos mascot," said Socceroo, judge and Cenovis partner Tim Cahill.

"Congratulations to Tom and Harrison on their winning entry. I love the designs the twins have developed. I can't wait to see the mascot over in Brazil."

Luke Fitzgerald, Director of Sanofi Consumer Healthcare, the makers of Cenovis, said the brand was proud to partner with the FFA to offer Australians this once in a lifetime opportunity.

"The Cenovis team is excited to have worked with the FFA on this very special project," Fitzgerald said. "As a Brisbane-based business, it was great to see some locals win the competition!

"There are some great opportunities for fans to meet the Socceroos mascot over the next few weeks and we hope all Australians will join Cenovis and get behind the Socceroos over the next few months."

Maloo the Socceroos mascot makes his debut at the recent fan day in Gosford and was an instant winner

New era online

ANGE POSTECOGLOU has launched an exciting new era for the Socceroos and here at FFA, we've launched a cool new-look website for our national team.

Welcome to www.socceroos.com.au.

With a FIFA World Cup just around the corner and the 2015 AFC Asian Cup next January, the Socceroos will be on the tip of fans' tongues.

And with www.socceroos.com.au we'll keep you in the loop with exclusive Socceroos content. There'll be loads of videos, including content exclusive to www.socceroos.com.au from inside the Socceroo camp itself at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Plus look out for some of the coolest viral videos.

We'll have all the social feeds and there'll be exclusive news, features and opinion from the sharpest minds around, including former Socceroo John Kosmina.

There'll be news direct from FFA HQ, a results ticker, stats from Opta and the "Big Tweet" of the day.

So have a look around and stay with us on www.socceroos.com.au as we move into this exciting new era with our national team.

Onesie winner

GETTING up in the early hours of the morning to support the Socceroos during the World Cup is a tradition that calls for a special outfit - something cosy, something comfortable, and most importantly - something blindingly green and gold. Made of soft warm fleece, the new Socceroos Onesie has got you covered - literally. It's the ultimate in stylish loungewear with a soft cotton hood to keep your ears warm, and zippered pockets so you can keep track of the TV remote - or your wallet and keys when you wear it to games and your mate's place!

Available now, along with a wide range of supporter gear, from shop.footballaustralia.com.au

Westfield FFA Cup powering ahead

Football Federation Australia (FFA) recently announced that Westfield will be the inaugural naming rights partner of the FFA Cup with the competition to be referred to as the Westfield FFA Cup for the next three seasons.

Speaking at the historic announcement, FFA CEO David Gallop, paid tribute to the support that Westfield provides to football in Australia.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that one of Australia's iconic businesses, Westfield, will be the inaugural Naming Rights Partner of the FFA Cup," said Gallop.

"FFA has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Westfield since 2008, and we are delighted that the partnership has been renewed for a further 3 years. Westfield will continue as the naming rights partner of the Westfield Matildas, the naming rights partner Westfield W-League, a partner of the Socceroos and Hyundai A-League, and of course now the relationship has expanded to include Westfield as the Major Partner of the FFA Cup.

"In addition, we welcome Fox Sports, Harvey Norman and NAB as foundation partners of the Westfield FFA Cup.

"With the corporate support of our partners, we can finally realise our dream of having a truly national football competition that connects the grass roots to the semi-professional tier and through to the elite level of the Hyundai A-League.

"Since unveiling the Cup in February, there has been a genuine buzz amongst the Australian football community and today's partnership announcements provide another historic moment in the genesis of the competition."

Westfield Australia's Director of Marketing, John Batistich, was also excited about being the inaugural naming rights partner of the Westfield FFA Cup.

"Our partnership with the FFA has grown since 2008, and we are excited to strengthen our alignment in 2014, as the Major Partner of the Westfield FFA Cup," said Batistich.

"The Westfield FFA Cup is another step in developing Australia's largest participation sport and connecting local football clubs with our 39 Westfield shopping centres right across the country," he said.

FFA also announced today that Umbro will be the "Official Ball Supplier of the Westfield FFA Cup", and will supply a specially designed FFA Cup Match Ball which will also be available for football fans in select retail outlets.

The official broadcast partner of the Westfield FFA Cup, Fox Sports, will broadcast live and exclusive the Round of 32 draw on Thursday, 26 June 2014. Fox Sports coverage of the Westfield FFA Cup 2014 will include a minimum of 10 matches from the Round of 32 onwards, including all Quarter Finals, both Semi Finals and the Westfield FFA Cup Final 2014.

ROAD TO RIO

The Socceroos' qualification for the 2014 FIFA World Cup through Asia had many twists and turns, but that only made sealing the coveted spot in Brazil all the sweeter. John Davidson casts an eye back on the rollercoaster ride as the Socceroos went about booking their place at the world's biggest party at the home of football...

Josh Kennedy strikes in an impressive 3-1 win over Saudi Arabia

The final whistle at Nelspruit's Mbombela Stadium in South Africa on June 23, 2010, signalled the very start of Australia's bid to qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The Socceroos had been brave and bold against Serbia, even daring to dream for a spot in the next round, but a late Serbian goal to Marko Pantelic killed off those hopes and ended our 2010 FIFA World Cup run. South Africa had failed to match the hopes and dreams stirred by the amazing achievement in Germany four years before. The end of that match was also the final curtain on the reign of Pim Verbeek, his last game in charge of Australia as head coach. A new era beckoned and a new era of regeneration appeared ahead, as the Socceroos planned to reach their third FIFA World Cup tournament in a row.

August 11, 2010
With technical director Han Berger taking charge of the team for a friendly with Slovenia, Football Federation Australia announced Holger Osieck as the Socceroos new head coach. The former German national team assistant coach, Canada and Urawa Red Diamonds boss met four specific requirements to get the position, according to FFA, which included having a proven capacity to rebuild the Socceroos, an objective to work with FFA technical director Han Berger, a proven record at international level, and a commitment to live in Australia and work towards a better future for the game in the country. "Holger clearly meets these criteria and comes highly recommended as he has worked at all levels of the game and will combine his coaching expertise and experience with an ability to contribute to the future development of young players," FFA boss Frank Lowy said at the time. "This is a legacy that we believe Holger will leave for football in Australia."

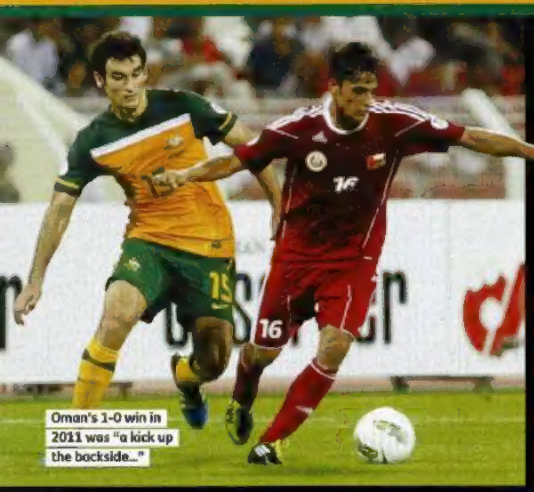
September 3, 2010
Osieck's first game in charge came just three weeks after his appointment. Coming up against Switzerland and fellow German coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Socceroos were held to a 0-0 draw at St Gallen's AFG Arena. Four days later, they would play another friendly and beat Poland 2-1 in Krakow, Osieck's first Socceroo victory.

September 2, 2011
After the highs of the 2011 AFC Asian Cup, where Holger's heroes made it to the final and were minutes away from penalties against the Japanese, the Socceroos pulled off some impressive wins in friendlies over Germany, New Zealand and Wales. Optimism about the national team was high. But finally their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign got properly underway against Thailand in Brisbane. It was a lacklustre opening. Australia secured the 2-1 victory but went behind to a Teerasil Dangda goal in the 15th minute. Goals to Josh Kennedy and Alex Brosque eventually saved the Socceroos' blushes but it served as a warning sign that the path to Brazil would not be as easy as many expected. "It feels like a loss," admitted Mark Schwarzer. "It was one of our worst performances for a long time and there are no excuses, we weren't good enough at times, but at least we won which is the positive."

September 6, 2011
Four days later and the men in the green and gold were in Dammam to face Saudi Arabia. A brace of goals for Kennedy, along with a late Luke Wilkshire penalty sandwiched between a Nasser Al-Shamrani effort gave the Socceroos a dominant 3-1 win in sweltering conditions. "I thought we were very convincing and stuck to a good game plan," captain Lucas Neill said. "Three goals away from home against arguably the second favourites in the group. Now we're in a strong, strong position to finish on top."

October 11, 2011
After a friendly mauling of Malaysia, the Socceroos were back in FIFA World Cup qualifying against Oman in Sydney. This was a great night for the Aussie side, goals coming from Brett Holman, Kennedy and Mile Jedinak in a one-sided 3-0 victory.

November 11, 2011
Cruising after three wins in a row, the Socceroos were shocked in the return ▶



Oman's 1-0 win in 2011 was "a kick up the backside..."

Robbie Kruse lit up Melbourne in the 4-0 win against Jordan

fixture in Muscat. Despite enjoying plenty of possession Australia couldn't break the Omanis down and fell to a 1-0 loss. Neill described it as "a kick up the backside. A lapse in concentration gave them some hope, something to fight for, and sure enough they ground it out and we couldn't find a response."

November 16, 2011

The Socceroos were keen to put the Omani disappointment behind them but again they struggled against Thailand. Playing in Bangkok's Rajamangala Stadium, the Socceroos managed a 1-0 win courtesy of a Holman header but were somewhat lucky to walk away with the three points. The Thais caused the Australians several problems and the Socceroos were slow to respond.

February 29, 2012

Australia had already secured their passage to the next qualifying round but Saudi Arabia would be no pushovers. After falling behind twice, the Socceroos got their act together in the second half with a stellar spell and goals from the old guard of Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton got them home 4-2. Still, the warning bells were ringing loudly.

June 8, 2012

After a dire friendly defeat to Denmark, the Socceroos were back in Muscat for the new round of FIFA World Cup qualifying to face Oman. A game defined by the two goalkeepers - Schwarzer and Ali Abdullah Hariib Al-Habsi - and hot weather ended in an 0-0 draw and a cautious performance from the visitors. "On the road to get a point is okay," Osieck said. "We came to win, but circumstances made it very difficult to achieve our target."

June 12, 2012

Next up was the old enemy, Japan. Like the 2006 FIFA World Cup match and the 2011 AFC Asian Cup final, the Blue Samurai bring the best out of the Socceroos and this was no different. Despite falling a goal behind in the 65th minute, and with a man down after Mark Milligan's controversial early dismissal, the Aussies showed resolve to fight back in a thrilling 1-1 draw and almost steal a win at the death. This was a classic Socceroos shift, one full of courage and determination. "What they showed today with one man down is hard to describe," Osieck said. "The spirit is unique, what they displayed today."

September 11, 2012

With some mixed friendly results against Scotland and Lebanon behind them, the Socceroos were in Amman and needing a win after two consecutive draws.

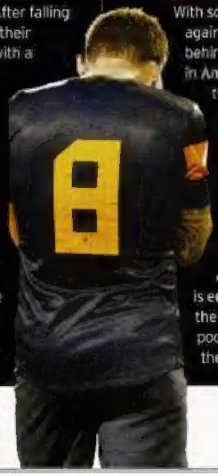
But Jordan did not oblige and pulled off a stunning 2-1 victory. Archie Thompson restored a little pride with his goal but the Jordanians were deserved winners and the FIFA World Cup campaign was officially in crisis. "The disappointment is enormous," Osieck said after the match. "We had a very, very poor first half, we didn't get into the game, our passing was a disaster, we never could get into our normal rhythm. We played a lot of long balls and I don't know why that happened. There was not enough movement in midfield. It was definitely a very poor showing in the first half."

October 16, 2012

A little over a month later and Australia's date with Iraq really was a must-win match. Played in Qatar's Al-Arabi Stadium, the Socceroos again left it late. While their determination and ability to fight back was again on show, Australia was exhibiting a flimsy defence and an alarming trend of giving soft goals away. Creating and converting chances was also becoming an issue. Veterans Thompson and Tim Cahill were the heroes, after Ala'a Abdulzehra's sucker punch in the 72nd minute, but Osieck was on notice that the Socceroos needed an overhaul. The pressure on the German coach and the whole team was rising quickly.

March 26, 2013

With a friendly against South Korea and East Asian Cup qualifying getting in the way, Osieck took the opportunity to blood youngsters such as Tom Rogic, Matthew Leckie and Eli Babalj. The business of reaching Brazil came back to the fore in March with Oman arriving in Sydney. However, again the warning signs were there and again the Socceroos rode their luck. Defensive errors saw the Omanis race to a 2-0 half-time lead. Staring down the barrel of an embarrassing defeat, the Socceroos rallied and an 85th minute Holman goal after a Cahill strike ensured the points were shared. However, Australia's nine lives were being used up fast. The Socceroos were still in the hunt for the FIFA World Cup, but hopes were now really hanging in the balance.



Josh Kennedy came off the bench to send the Socceroos to Brazil 2014

June 4, 2013

With three games left, the Socceroos travelled to Saitama to face Japan. An under-fire Australian side responded to growing criticism at home with an impressive performance. The Socceroos looked destined for a win after Tommy Oar fired the green and gold ahead with eight minutes left in the game. But a dramatic last-minute penalty to Keisuke Honda meant the points were shared and that the Socceroos would need two wins from their final two games to guarantee FIFA World Cup qualification. "I thought we played an excellent game," Osieck said. "We were very solid as a defensive unit, we had a lot of options on the counter, we had a lot of pace in our game. Before the game the point would have been good ... but a draw is a little bit disappointing. The spirit in the group was good. Everybody was convinced we could get a result here."

June 11, 2013

The chance for automatic qualification was in its final throes and worries were evident. The *#Holgerout* hashtag was getting a workout on social media and criticism of the ageing Socceroos squad was multiplying. Nothing but a win against Jordan would suffice and a Robbie Kruse-inspired Socceroos certainly delivered at Docklands Stadium. Australia ran out 4-0 winners, with Kruse bagging a goal and two assists. "To get the win was excellent - we're really happy and it puts us in a good position going into the next game," Kruse said. "It was fantastic to get four goals, and we could have had a few more." The final match against Iraq would decide whether the Socceroos would be going to Brazil from their group directly, or if they would have to navigate another tricky two-legged play-off against the fifth-best team in South America.

June 18, 2013

A tense atmosphere greeted Iraq and Australia at Sydney's Stadium Australia, with the Socceroos knowing a win would give them second spot in the group behind Japan and a spot at another FIFA World Cup. Iraq, often Australia's bogey team, effectively had nothing to play for but they were not about to lie down. It was nervy, it was anti-climatic but in the end, the Socceroos just got the job down. Substitute Kennedy rose high to head in an 82nd-minute winner and send the rain-soaked crowd into raptures. Up until that point, it looked like the Aussies weren't going to break down a composed and compact Iraqi defence, who took the game to their more fancied opponents. The last-gasp win mean the Socceroos were going straight to Brazil and were able to avoid playing Uruguay once again for a FIFA World Cup berth. "I'm proud of everybody," Neill said. "It's been a really hard campaign but we showed our mental strength. I'm sorry it wasn't pretty but we beat them. We've got to keep pushing ourselves." Osieck described the qualification campaign as "very tough... but we made it happen over the last three games. I'm simply happy for the boys and the fans. It was a tricky game, they are tough to play."

Skipper Lucas Neill's relief was obvious when we qualified

This match personified Australia's rollercoaster qualification path, one that threw up more than its fair share of speedbumps and potholes. The Socceroos ultimately survived it but there would be long-term casualties. Just four months later, after losses to China, Japan and a pair of 6-0 spankings at the hands of Brazil and France, Osieck was sacked. Other mainstays of Osieck's Socceroos, such as Sasa Ognenovski, Brett Holman, Archie Thompson, Mark Schwarzer and Alex Brosque, have been sidelined under new boss Ange Postecoglou. Veteran skipper Lucas Neill will also miss out on a third FIFA World Cup as Postecgolou fast-tracks his own revolution. Australia made it to Brazil, but essentially by the skin of their teeth. Change was a necessity and the regeneration has now begun. As we look ahead to the 2015 AFC Asian Cup and the next FIFA World Cup in Russia in 2018, a new breed has quickly been given the keys to the Socceroos.

CENOVIS®

POWERING THE SOCCEROOS

OFFICIAL VITAMIN OF THE SOCCEROOS

Cenovis is proud to join the Socceroos family as Official Vitamin Partner.

Here at Cenovis, we know families - and we know that a family is a lot like a team. They work together to achieve goals, as well as encouraging and inspiring one another.

Cenovis is committed to inspiring more Australian families to live healthily together, by offering great quality products they can trust.

As the Socceroos take on the world's best, we're proud to support the health of their family. We'll not only be helping to power the team on the field but also within the wider Socceroos family - from the behind the scenes teams that keep the players healthy to the families of the Socceroos and of course the supporters.

In a busy year for football, Cenovis, with the help of the Socceroos will inspire Australian families to live healthy.

AU-CEN-13-10-031

MY LIFE'S WORK...

Brazil 2014 will be Ange Postecoglou's very first FIFA World Cup, not just as a head coach – but ever. It's a baptism of fire for the newly-appointed Socceroos boss but, as he tells Ben Somerford, it's what he's been building towards throughout his whole life.

Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou lives and breathes football. He has worked in the game his entire life and has played and coached the code all over the globe from the Soviet Union to Trinidad and Tobago to Lakeside Stadium. Yet remarkably Brazil 2014 will be the 48-year-old's first ever FIFA World Cup experience.

Not as a fan, not as a player, not as a media pundit, not as a coach, has Postecoglou ever been to a FIFA World Cup. There's nothing quite like the universal sense of buzz, passion and culture generated by the melting pot that is a FIFA World Cup. It's an unrivalled atmosphere of genuine excitement which simply cannot be artificially cultivated by any other global sporting event.

While there's some trepidation among supporters about the number of inexperienced Socceroos heading for Brazil for their first taste of the big time, surely it is daunting for Postecoglou to be entering his maiden FIFA World Cup in the hot seat as the head coach of his country? But Postecoglou refuses to see it that way. "It is exciting," he says. "From my perspective, there's nothing there that is too daunting."

In many ways, Postecoglou has been preparing his entire life for this challenge where he's excited to test himself against the best. "It's why I got involved in the game and why I do what I do," he says.

"We all aspire to rise to the highest possible level. I get an opportunity in a privileged position to experience the biggest tournament on earth against the very best our code has to offer. There can only be excitement within that and looking forward to experiencing that and hopefully making an impact."

Despite physically never attending a FIFA World Cup, Postecoglou has been there every step of the way as a football fan, albeit from afar. Speaking after he named the Socceroos' provisional 30-man squad, Postecoglou has no shortage of FIFA World Cup memories to share from Diego Maradona to Roberto Baggio.

However, his love of the tournament and lifelong passion for football was born as an eight-year-old in 1974, watching the first-ever Socceroos side to qualify for the tournament punching far above their semi-professional weight in West Germany.

"I remember watching it on an old black-and-white TV and we sat up in the middle of the night," Postecoglou recalls. "Watching it, it bought home to me how big the game is. I do remember the West Germany game and Australia acquitting ourselves very well against a side which went on to win the tournament. The impression it made on me as a kid reaffirmed my love and passion for the game."

Postecoglou has spoken about the Socceroos coaching role being a "mission" for him, having wanted the job for years, fuelled by his passion for his country and the game. Athens-born Postecoglou was himself migrated to Australia from Greece with his family as a five-year-old, but there was never any doubting his allegiance after cheering on Rale Rasic's Socceroos from afar in 1974.

"With my background, coming ►

Ange honed his skills with the rising stars of the Socceroos

Today he knows exactly the brand of football he wants

into this country as a five-year-old, this is my adopted country and I wanted to fit in and part of that was understanding the pride of wearing the national team one," Postecoglou says. "Watching the Socceroos in a FIFA World Cup and trying to reconcile that even though I was in a country where the code wasn't the number one sport that we can still reach those heights it certainly fuelled something in me."

Back in 1974, there was no send-off game for the Socceroos who played Uruguay twice in back-to-back fixtures in Melbourne and Sydney in April, before reconvening in May for two warm-up games in Indonesia and Israel on route to West Germany.

Australia's first FIFA World Cup match was against East Germany in Hamburg on June 14, where Rasic's side were written off but held their opponents scoreless until half-time. A Colin Curran own goal and Joachim Streich strike within 20 minutes of the restart sealed the win for the East Germans.

Four days later, the Socceroos were again in action at Hamburg's Volksparkstadion in front of 35,000 West Germany fans against the hosts who were favourites to lift the title, boasting the likes of Franz Beckenbauer, Berti Vogts and Gerd Mueller among their ranks. It was a David-versus-Goliath contest and the brave Socceroos battled manfully but went crashed out 3-0.

Australia faced Chile in their final group game amid torrential rain in Berlin, with both sides out of the running to reach the second round. On a strange afternoon when almost all of Chilean fans ran onto the field mid-game with a pre-loaded flag, and when Socceroos defender Ray Richards received two yellow cards but wasn't sent off until a lengthy later revised the situation, Australia claimed their first-ever FIFA World Cup point.

Thirty years on, the Socceroos will be out for more history against the Chileans, who will be Australia's first opponents at the 2014 FIFA World Cup on June 13 (June 14 AEST) in Cuiaba. "It would be great to create some more history against them, but it's a different Chile we're facing and we're a different Socceroos team," Postecoglou says, refusing to draw any parallels.

When analysing his approach to the Chile clash, Postecoglou instead draws upon Australia's experiences in 2010 under Pim Verbeek, where they suffered a disastrous 4-0 opening loss to Germany which put them behind the eight-ball for the remainder of the group stage. "From our perspective that first game is a pretty critical one," he says. "We saw in the last FIFA World Cup, you don't get off to a good start, you put yourself under a lot of pressure for the rest of the tournament. We'll do a lot of planning and a lot of our work [illegible] the first game [illegible]

As a former Australia [illegible] international player, and [illegible] Postecoglou has enjoyed a number of experiences at FIFA youth World Cups. Back in the 1985, 19-year-old Postecoglou was part of Australia's 16-man squad for the FIFA World Youth Cup where the tournament in Minsk in the Soviet Union to face the hosts as well as Nigeria and Canada. "That was my first taste of international football and it was a fantastic experience," he recalls. "We travelled abroad much as it was an eye opener. We got a chance to play against the best in the world at our age level. I enjoyed every moment of it. It sure was fun that I wanted to play for the senior Socceroos one day because it was such a great experience."

Three years later, Postecoglou made his Socceroos debut as a 23-year-old [illegible] defence as Australia drew 0-0 with

His appointment saw a generational change of regime

The FFA looked to the future by recruiting Postecoglou

Czechoslovakia at Olympic Park in his [illegible] Melbourne. Postecoglou would only add three more senior caps to his career tally and never played at a senior FIFA World Cup, but said his Socceroos debut remained a very fond memory.

"It was definitely a special moment," he says. "Even though I had a goal to do it, I never thought I would. That was a special moment particularly being in Melbourne in front of family and friends. It's something I cherish."

[illegible] got the most out of himself [illegible] injury to retire in [illegible] He treasures memories like [illegible] about national Soccer [illegible] with South Melbourne, but [illegible] which he was part of [illegible] Socceroos squad which defeated the [illegible] Argentina 4-1 in [illegible] Bicentennial Gold Cup in July 1988 [illegible] in front of almost 20,000 fans at Sydney [illegible]

[illegible] tournament, [illegible] Argentina, Brazil [illegible] Postecoglou [illegible] celebrate the playmaker [illegible] the [illegible] Jackson and Aitken [illegible] scored [illegible] a memorable 1-0 [illegible] Brazil [illegible] Socceroos [illegible] Saudi Arabia 3-0, [illegible] the Socceroos [illegible] the better of an [illegible] [illegible] Diego Maradona, Gabriel Batistuta [illegible] and Oscar Ruggeri. "Watching our guys take on Argentina who were arguably the best side in the world at the time and beating them 4-1 I remember the impact it made that night," Postecoglou recalls.

"It made me believe the code could grow in this country. It didn't matter the next morning what code you followed, everyone wanted a piece of the Socceroos and wanted to know how we got it. It gave me a glimpse into the future. This was back in 1988 and it's taken a while for us to get where we are, but it showed us what we were capable of as a code when everything comes together."

The result also goes to show nothing's impossible, a pertinent message for the Socceroos ahead of the daunting assignments against 2010 FIFA World Cup finalists the Netherlands and Spain in Porto Alegre and Curitiba.

"Especially in our code, anything's possible and with our team, we've always punched above our weight and there's no reason why we can't in Brazil," Postecoglou says.

"We're not going to go there and just play three games, we want to go there and measure ourselves against the best and if an opportunity presents itself, we'll take it. That means if at any given moment, the opposition aren't on their game, then we'll try and knock them off."

Advance planning is crucial, says Ange

During Postecoglou's time as national youth coach, he also went to six Under-17 or Under-20 FIFA World Cups with varying success. Nothing compares to the real thing, but the experiences of playing in tournaments in different environments in Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, UAE, Finland, the Netherlands and Peru during those tournaments, has taught Postecoglou a key lesson for his preparations for Brazil.

"The one thing I learnt a lot through that time as a coach on the international stage is understanding that your time with players is limited, so it's so important to plan well leading into these camps and leading in to these tournaments," Postecoglou says.

The former Brisbane Roar and South Melbourne coach has the Socceroos' daily itinerary in Brazil planned to the T. He adds: "I've certainly used that since I went into the role in the last six months to make sure by the time the players have arrived in camp that everything has been planned to the smallest detail so we can maximize the time we have together. I think that's the biggest lesson I learnt through that time."

Now the test comes for Postecoglou himself, and learning how to deal with the pressure and excitement which the World Cup brings. And as a debutant at the tournament, he admitted he will allow himself a moment to enjoy it all come June 13 at Cuiaba's Arena Pantanal. "It's important as a coach to take my time to experience it," the 48-year-old says.

"Obviously my role is to ensure everyone is prepared to play to give them an opportunity to perform at their best, but there will be a moment when I'm there before the game when I'll take the opportunity to soak it all up... and that experience will be pretty unique." ■

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AUSTRALIA vs CHILE	AUSTRALIA vs NETHERLANDS	AUSTRALIA vs SPAIN	SEMI FINAL 1	SEMI FINAL 2	FINAL

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MEET YOUR SOCCEROOS

Meet the squad hand-picked by Socceroos head coach Ange Postecoglou for tonight's clash

SOCCEROOS STAFF

Luke CASSERLY: Head of Delegation
Han BERGER: Technical Director
Aurelio VIDMAR: Coach
Ante MILICIC: Coach
Tony FRANKEN: Goalkeeper Coach
Alan McCALL: Football Conditioner
Peter CKLAMOVSKI: Technical Analyst
Craig MOORE: Advisor / Ambassador
Joel FREEME: Team Manager
Dr Mark JONES: Doctor
Les GELIS: Senior Physiotherapist
Kurt LISLE: Physiotherapist
Cam DUNKERLEY: Physiotherapist
Luke ATTWELL: Masseur
Dom RABSCH: Equipment Manager
Vito BASILE: Administration
Mal IMPIOMBATO: Equipment Assistant
David MASON: Head of Socceroos Media Management
Rob SQUILLACIOTI: Media and Social Media Manager
Ben COONAN: TV / Digital
Mark SALIBA: Security Manager
Kersten ROTT: Security
Vinicius CAPOVILLA: Chef

Head coach

Ange Postecoglou
Position Head Coach

After a succession of foreign coaches, Australia turned to local hero Ange Postecoglou to the lead the Socceroos at Brazil 2014. The former U20s mentor cemented a formidable reputation by masterminding back to back Championships and a Premiership at Brisbane Roar, and was in the process of revolutionising Melbourne Victory when he answered his country's call.

Goalkeepers

Mark Birighitti
Age 23 **Position** Goalkeeper
Club Newcastle Jets
Appearances 1

Perth-born Birighitti was a solid performer for Newcastle Jets during the 2013/14 season keeping six clean sheets in his second year as the club's first choice goalkeeper. Birighitti, who played in an AFC Champions League Final with Adelaide United as a 17-year old, made his Socceroos debut during last year's EAFF East Asian Cup and has been linked with a move to Germany this off season

Eugene Galekovic
Age 32 **Position** Goalkeeper
Club Adelaide United
Appearances 8

The reigning and three-time Hyundai A-League Goalkeeper of the Year is the most experienced shotstopper in the Socceroos' squad. Melbourne-born Galekovic played NSL football before trying his luck in Portugal with Beira Mar. He returned to Australia to play with Melbourne Victory, before becoming a regular at Adelaide United where he's made more than 200 appearances.

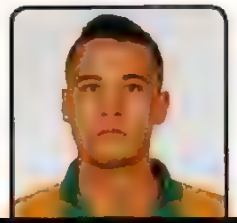
Mitchell Langerak
Age 25 **Position** Goalkeeper
Club Borussia Dortmund
Appearances 3

The ex-Melbourne Victory custodian secured a four-year deal with German powerhouse Borussia Dortmund in 2010 and has been on the winning side in 16 of his 18 games. Langerak played UEFA Champions League football this season, taking on Napoli and Olympique Marseille, but remained second choice to Roman Weidenfeller in the main despite making nine appearances in total

Mat Ryan
Age 22 **Position** Goalkeeper
Club Club Brugge
Appearances 5

Australia's goalkeeping future is in good hands thanks in large part to the former Central Coast Mariners star. Ryan, who notched up a record 12 clean sheets in his first season in the Hyundai A-League, signed for Club Brugge in May where, as first choice keeper, he was outstanding throughout the club's Belgian Pro League title push and was the league's goalkeeper of the year

Defenders



Jason **Davidson**

Age 22 **Position** Left Back
Club Heracles Almelo
Appearances 5

The son of retired Socceroo great Alan Davidson hasn't featured predominantly to date but could be the answer to Australia's left back woes. His international debut was forgettable, coming on as a substitute against Scotland and conceding an own goal, but consistent form for his Dutch club has helped book his place in Brazil and potentially a move elsewhere in Europe this off-season

Ivan **Franjic**

Age 26 **Position** Right Back
Club Brisbane Roar
Appearances 7

Franjic has established himself in the national team squads under Ange Postecoglou following scintillating form at Brisbane Roar, albeit further up the park. The Melbourne-born defender worked with Postecoglou previously at Suncorp Stadium and the boss has a lot of confidence in his versatility, energy and attacking adventure out of full back which adds another dimension.

Curtis **Good**

Age 21 **Position** Central Defender
Club Newcastle United
Appearances 1

Newcastle United signed Good for AU$600,000 from Melbourne Heart and the 21-year-old made his Magpies debut in August in the League Cup, but entered Socceroos calculations after a good loan spell with Dundee United. Good made his international debut against Ecuador in March, impressing before suffering a hip injury which threatened to derail his 2014 FIFA World Cup bid

Defenders

Ryan **McGowan**

Age 24 **Position** Defender
Club Shandong Luneng Taishan
Appearances 8

Unfairly scapegoated for Australia's horror show against Brazil last September, the Adelaide-born defender hasn't been able to win back a starting spot since. After playing five years in Scotland, McGowan - who can play anywhere across the back four - made the move to the Chinese Super League last year and immediately found himself on the Socceroos radar

Matthew **Spiranovic**

Age 25 **Position** Central defender
Club Western Sydney Wanderers
Appearances 17

Highly-regarded and capped at all national levels, Spiranovic made his Socceroos debut against Ghana in 2008, but missed the cut in 2010. After showing promise at German club FC Nurnberg, the Geelong-born defender lost his way during spells at Urawa Red Diamonds and Al Arabi before eventually becoming a mainstay in the Western Sydney Wanderers' backline where he has thrived.

Alex **Wilkinson**

Age 29 **Position** Centre Back
Club Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors
Appearances 1

Better late than never for the ex-Central Coast Mariners skipper. One of the more obvious beneficiaries from the change in the Socceroos coach, Wilkinson - a former youth international - made his international debut as a substitute against Ecuador after good performances for K-League high-flyers Jeonbuk. However, his debut was tarnished after an error led to the stoppage-time winner.

Defenders

Luke **Wilkshire**

Age 32 **Position** Right Back
Club Dinamo Moscow
Appearances 79

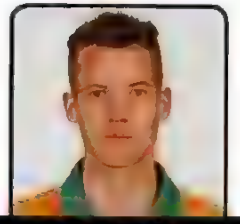
Wilkshire was the 2006 FIFA World Cup bolter pulled out of the English third tier by Guus Hiddink before starting key matches against Japan and Italy. The right-back's emergence in Germany led to his move to FC Twente and a big-money switch to Dinamo Moscow. The veteran has enjoyed a distinguished international career and will be appearing at his third FIFA World Cup finals in Brazil

Bailey **Wright**

Age 21 **Position** Centre back/Right back
Club Preston North End
Appearances 0

The unheralded Wright remarkably received his first-ever international call-up for the Socceroos' 30-man provisional FIFA World Cup squad. Melbourne-born Wright has been with Preston since joining in 2009. The former Joeys defender, who can play as a centre back or full back, has become a regular over the past two seasons at North End, making more than 50 appearances in defence this term.

Midfielders



Oliver **Bozanic**

Age 25 **Position** Midfielder
Club Luzern
Appearances 2

The ex-Reading player and Olyroos skipper spent three years in England before returning to the Hyundai A-League, but has clearly stepped it up a notch since moving to Luzern. Bozanic won the Swiss Super League Player of the Month for August after a prolific start to the season and has been a regular. Versatile, with a pinpoint crossing ability, he is starting to deliver on his early promise

Mark **Bresciano**

Age 34 **Position** Attacking Mid/Winger
Club Al-Gharafa
Appearances 73

The legs may not be as fast but the footballing brain is still razor sharp. "Bresh" signed for Serie A side Parma in 2002 for €7 million, at the time a record fee for an Aussie player. A move to the Middle East after 12 years in Italy has helped reinvigorate his career. Master of the killer pass, the Socceroos' fulcrum has chipped in with crucial campaign-saving goals, most memorably against Uruguay in 2005

Joshua **Brillante**

Age 21 **Position** Midfielder/Right Back
Club Newcastle Jets
Appearances 1

One of a trio of talented Newcastle Jets in the squad, Brillante burst on to the scene with a stunning goal at the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup, prompting links with Lazio, Schalke and Everton. Brillante was handed his international debut at the EAFF East Asian Cup in 2013, but backed up his selection with a strong season for the Jets where he won the club's Player of the Year award

Midfielders

James **Holland**

Age 25 **Position** Midfielder
Club Austria Wien
Appearances 12

Holland has won titles with Newcastle Jets (2007/08) and Austria Wien (2012/13). After struggling for game time in the Eredivisie, the former Young Socceroos skipper is getting opportunities to shine in the Austrian Bundesliga where he banked some UEFA Champions League experience this season, facing off against finalists Atletico Madrid as well as FC Porto and Zenit St Petersburg.

Mile **Jedinak**

Age 29 **Position** Midfielder/Left Back
Club Crystal Palace
Appearances 43

The no-nonsense holding midfielder was a key factor in Crystal Palace retaining their Premiership status this season, playing all but the final 30 minutes of the club's league campaign. Australia's only regular starter in the English Premier League is renowned for his work ethic and imposing physical presence. The ex-Central Coast Mariner's leadership will be crucial as the Socceroos regenerate.

Massimo **Luongo**

Age 21 **Position** Midfielder
Club Swindon Town
Appearances 1

Sydney-born Luongo spent several seasons with Tottenham Hotspur, where he missed a spotkick in a penalty shootout defeat on debut. Last year Luongo joined Swindon Town where the combative but crafty midfielder impressed throughout the gruelling season. The ex-Australia Under-20 international played more than 50 games for the Robins, leading to his senior debut against Ecuador.

Midfielders

Matt **McKay**

Age 31 **Position** Midfielder/Left Back
Club Brisbane Roar
Appearances 45

The Socceroos coach knows exactly what McKay brings to a team. The midfield livewire skippered Brisbane Roar during Postecoglou's title-winning reign and returned to the Hyundai A-League after stints in Scotland, Korea and China to help the club to the 2013/14 double. During the 2011 AFC Asian Cup, he set up three goals in a 6-0 semi-final drubbing of Uzbekistan.

Mark **Milligan**

Age 28 **Position** Holding Midfielder
Club Melbourne Victory
Appearances 27

The Melbourne Victory skipper has a building reputation, having spurned lucrative offers from Crystal Palace and the Middle East over the past 12 months. A natural leader traditionally used as a centre back, his move to a holding midfield role has capitalised on his positioning and range of passing. The former Olyroo is one of the first names on the national team sheet.

Tommy **Oar**

Age 22 **Position** Attacking Mid/Winger
Club FC Utrecht
Appearances 13

Speed, skill and a willingness to run at players, Oar has been the 'next big thing' since he burst onto the scene at Brisbane Roar as an unknown 17-year-old. He missed the cut for the 2010 FIFA World Cup after being selected in the preliminary squad, but has gone on to underline his value to the Socceroos with an away goal against Japan that helped the Aussies secure a place at Brazil.

more give, less take

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JUNE 13 – JULY 14 EVERY MATCH LIVE & EXCLUSIVE IN HD*

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GROUPS

A	Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, Cameroon	B	Spain, Netherlands, Chile, Australia	C	Colombia, Greece, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan	D	Uruguay, Costa Rica, England, Italy
E	Switzerland, Ecuador, France, Honduras	F	Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran, Nigeria	G	Germany, Portugal, Ghana, USA	H	Belgium, Algeria, Russia, Korea Republic

FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil — SBS — OFFICIAL BROADCASTER

GROUP A

FRI 13TH JUNE 2014 · 1	SAT 14TH JUNE 2014 · 2	WED 18TH JUNE 2014 · 17	THUR 19TH JUNE 2014 · 18
Brazil vs Croatia	Mexico vs Cameroon	Brazil vs Mexico	Cameroon vs Croatia
05:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
SAT 14TH JUNE 2014 · 3	SAT 14TH JUNE 2014 · 4	THUR 19TH JUNE 2014 · 20	THUR 19TH JUNE 2014 · 21
Spain vs Netherlands	Chile vs Australia	Australia vs Netherlands	Spain vs Chile
04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
SUN 15TH JUNE 2014 · 5	SUN 15TH JUNE 2014 · 6	FRI 20TH JUNE 2014 · 21	FRI 20TH JUNE 2014 · 22
Colombia vs Greece	Côte d'Ivoire vs Japan	Colombia vs Côte d'Ivoire	Japan vs Greece
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	10:15AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
SUN 15TH JUNE 2014 · 7	SUN 15TH JUNE 2014 · 8	FRI 20TH JUNE 2014 · 23	SAT 21ST JUNE 2014 · 24
Uruguay vs Costa Rica	England vs Italy	Uruguay vs England	Italy vs Costa Rica
04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
MON 16TH JUNE 2014 · 9	MON 16TH JUNE 2014 · 10	SAT 21ST JUNE 2014 · 25	SAT 21ST JUNE 2014 · 26
Switzerland vs Ecuador	France vs Honduras	Switzerland vs France	Honduras vs Ecuador
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
MON 16TH JUNE 2014 · 11	TUE 17TH JUNE 2014 · 12	SUN 22ND JUNE 2014 · 27	SUN 22ND JUNE 2014 · 28
Argentina vs Bosnia-Herzegovina	Iran vs Nigeria	Argentina vs Iran	Nigeria vs Bosnia-Herzegovina
07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
TUE 17TH JUNE 2014 · 13	TUE 17TH JUNE 2014 · 14	SUN 22ND JUNE 2014 · 29	MON 23RD JUNE 2014 · 30
Germany vs Portugal	Ghana vs United States	Germany vs Ghana	USA vs Portugal
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
WED 18TH JUNE 2014 · 15	WED 18TH JUNE 2014 · 16	MON 23RD JUNE 2014 · 31	MON 23RD JUNE 2014 · 32
Belgium vs Algeria	Russia vs Korea Republic	Belgium vs Russia	Korea Republic vs Algeria
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	07:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	04:30AM SBS ONE RADIO

TUE 24TH JUNE 2014 · 33	TUE 24TH JUNE 2014 · 34	SUN 29TH JUNE 2014 · 49
Cameroon vs Brazil	Croatia vs Mexico	1A vs 2B
05:45AM SBS ONE RADIO	05:45AM SBS 2 RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
TUE 24TH JUNE 2014 · 35	TUE 24TH JUNE 2014 · 36	SUN 29TH JUNE 2014 · 50
Australia vs Spain	Netherlands vs Chile	1C vs 2D
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS 2 RADIO	05:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
WED 25TH JUNE 2014 · 37	WED 25TH JUNE 2014 · 38	MON 30TH JUNE 2014 · 51
Japan vs Colombia	Greece vs Côte d'Ivoire	1B vs 2A
05:45AM SBS ONE RADIO	05:45AM SBS 2 RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
WED 25TH JUNE 2014 · 39	WED 25TH JUNE 2014 · 40	MON 30TH JUNE 2014 · 52
Italy vs Uruguay	Costa Rica vs England	1D vs 2C
01:30AM SBS 2 RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	05:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
THUR 26TH JUNE 2014 · 42	THUR 26TH JUNE 2014 · 41	TUE 1ST JULY 2014 · 53
Ecuador vs France	Honduras vs Switzerland	1E vs 2F
05:45AM SBS ONE RADIO	05:45AM SBS 2 RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
THUR 26TH JUNE 2014 · 43	THUR 26TH JUNE 2014 · 44	TUE 1ST JULY 2014 · 54
Nigeria vs Argentina	Bosnia-Herzegovina vs Iran	1G vs 2H
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS 2 RADIO	05:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
FRI 27TH JUNE 2014 · 46	FRI 27TH JUNE 2014 · 45	WED 2ND JULY 2014 · 55
Portugal vs Ghana	USA vs Germany	1F vs 2E
01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO	01:30AM SBS 2 RADIO	01:30AM SBS ONE RADIO
FRI 27TH JUNE 2014 · 47	FRI 27TH JUNE 2014 · 48	WED 2ND JULY 2014 · 56
Korea Republic vs Belgium	Algeria vs Russia	1H vs 2G
05:45AM SBS ONE RADIO	05:45AM SBS 2 RADIO	05:30AM SBS ONE RADIO

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER FINAL 1 · SAT 5TH JULY 2014 · 57 — Winner Game 49 vs Winner Game 50

QUARTER FINAL 2 · SAT 5TH JULY 2014 · 58 — Winner Game 51 vs Winner Game 54

QUARTER FINAL 3 · SUN 6TH JULY 2014 · 59 — Winner Game 53 vs Winner Game 52

QUARTER FINAL 4 · SUN 6TH JULY 2014 · 60 — Winner Game 55 vs Winner Game 56

SEMI FINAL 1 · WED 9TH JULY 2014 · 61 — Winner Quarter Final 1 vs Winner Quarter Final 3

SEMI FINAL 2 · THUR 10TH JULY 2014 · 62 — Winner Quarter Final 2 vs Winner Quarter Final 4

FINAL · MON 14TH JULY 2014 · 64 — Winner Semi Final 1 vs Winner Semi Final 2

THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF · SUN 13TH JULY 2014 · 63 — Runner-up Semi Final 1 vs Runner-up Semi Final 2

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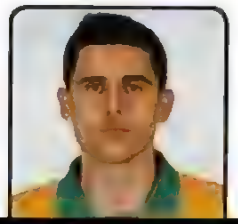
Midfielders



Tommy **Rogic**

Age 21 **Position** Attacking Midfielder
Club Celtic
Appearances 9

The former national futsal player's meteoric rise to prominence began in 2011 when he won Nike's The Chance global talent search. From there it was a quick trip to the Hyundai A-League champs, Central Coast Mariners, before signing a long-term deal with Scottish giants Celtic. The gifted playmaker comes with big raps but also plenty to prove ahead of Brazil

Adam **Sarota**

Age 25 **Position** Midfielder
Club FC Utrecht
Appearances 3

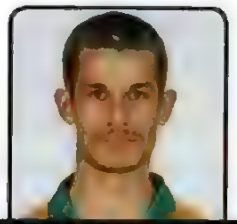
Sarota is the first and only ever National Youth League Player of the Year to represent Australia. The Cairns-born ex-Brisbane Roar midfielder was one of three young Australians to join Utrecht in April 2010. Sarota spent almost 12 months out following a serious knee injury, but fought back in the second half of the 2013/14 season and is one of the feel good stories among the Socceroos squad.

James **Troisi**

Age 25 **Position** Winger/Attacking midfielder
Club Atalanta Bergamo
Appearances 9

When Juventus chase a player, it's clear he has talent. Troisi netted 15 goals on loan at Melbourne Victory in the 2013/14 season. The Adelaide-born attacker has had previous spells at Newcastle United, Genclerbirligi and Kayserispor, before being signed by Juve and Atalanta on a co-ownership deal. Troisi has scored once for Australia against New Zealand in his home town.

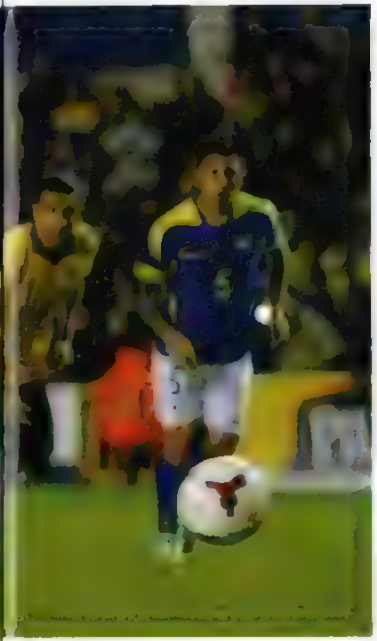
Midfielders



Dario **Vidosic**

Age 27 **Position** Attacking Midfielder
Club Sion
Appearances 21

Another prodigious talent plucked from Brisbane Roar's nursery, the classy playmaker notched up 10 goals in 26 matches for Adelaide United in 2012/13 before transferring to Swiss Super League outfit Sion. Vidosic has had a run of goals and produced moments of brilliance throughout an encouraging first season in the Super League, including a recent fine strike against Thun.



Strikers

Tim **Cahill**

Age 34 **Position** Attacking Midfielder
Club New York Red Bulls
Appearances 67

Australia's first-ever World Cup goal scorer and now the Socceroos' all-time leading goal scorer, Cahill is a national icon. Known for his aerial ability, he made the switch to New York Red Bulls in 2012 after eight years at Everton. Cahill battled a hamstring injury earlier this season, but brings form to the Socceroos camp after netting in his New York send-off.

Ben **Halloran**

Age 21 **Position** Attacking midfielder/Winger
Club Fortuna Dusseldorf
Appearances 0

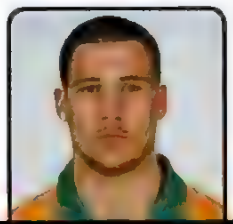
Uncapped Halloran banged down the door to earn selection with five goals in the final six games of Fortuna Dusseldorf's 2.Bundesliga season, including a sublime chip against Erzgebirge Aue in April. The former Gold Coast United and Brisbane Roar attacker is blessed with speed, but has improved his technical ability in Germany.

Josh **Kennedy**

Age 31 **Position** Striker
Club Nagoya Grampus
Appearances 33

The beanpole striker is in the frame for his third straight World Cup appearance after sealing our spot at Brazil in the last qualifier against Iraq. Australia's go-to man delivered in the final 10 minutes, shortly after running on the pitch. After moving to the J-League in 2009, he topped the goal scoring charts for two seasons running

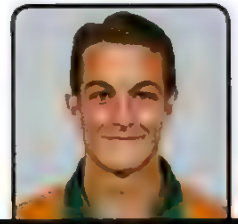
Strikers



Matthew **Leckie**

Age 23 **Position** Second Striker/Right Winger
Club FC Ingolstadt
Appearances 6

The explosive forward made the move to Germany following two standout years with Adelaide United and, after putting in the hard yards, was a revelation at 2.Bundesliga outfit FSV Frankfurt before recently penning a three-year deal with Ingolstadt. Leckie bagged 12 goals and provided eight assists for FSV in 2013/14 and fired home his first international goal in a 3-0 drubbing of Canada last October.



Adam **Taggart**

Age 20 **Position** Striker
Club Newcastle Jets
Appearances 4

Taggart forced his way into World Cup calculations in when he became the youngest player to win the Hyundai A-League 2013/14 Golden Boot after 16 strikes. The young striker originally moved from Perth Glory to Newcastle Jets in 2012, before going on to make his international debut in EAFF East Asian Cup qualifying, where he netted twice against Chinese Taipei.

THE HUNGRY MILE

Mile Jedinak is set to cap off an amazing 18 months with a trip to Brazil and the World Cup. John Davidson spoke with the recent Socceroo captain about his appetite for success, his English Premier League adventure, the changed national set-up under Ange Postecoglou – and just how Australia will fare in the ultimate Group Of Death

Being the only Australian playing regularly in the Premier League is no easy task. With it comes great expectation, pressure and an increased spotlight from an entire nation.

But for Crystal Palace skipper Mile Jedinak it has been water off a duck's back. The solid-as-a-rock midfielder has coolly and calmly made the step up to the Premier League from the Championship without missing a beat.

After helping Palace secure promotion in dramatic style, he has captained the Eagles as they battle it out in the top flight. Along the way he has earned rave reviews from the English media for his leadership, his impressive displays in the Palace engine room and for his goalscoring qualities.

With a number of Socceroos languishing in lower European leagues, the Middle East and America, or struggling for game time, Jedinak has been a shining light for Australia.

There is no argument that this western Sydney product has become the Socceroos most important player heading into the World Cup. The decision by Ange Postecoglou to hand him the Australian captaincy for the friendly with Ecuador earlier this year was a no-brainer. Jedinak's composure, leadership – a talented player in his own right, he is also very respected by his teammates with experience at football's highest level.

With the Socceroos preparing for our greatest World Cup challenge yet, we caught up with the midfield enforcer on the eve of the Socceroos jetting off to face their destiny at the tournament in Brazil.

The Socceroos last game against Ecuador was certainly the proverbial game of two halves. What was the feeling of the squad after the match?

I think obviously with the result it was disappointing but considering how we started, and we gave ourselves a [illegible] half with three goals to boot, we really looked comfortable. And then the way it turned around was a little bit disappointing but personally, you've got to take the positives out of that considering the circumstances.

This was the first game of the Socceroos under Ange Postecoglou and Costa Rica match. How have you found his style of coaching?

Obviously it's only been brief. We got to see a little more against Costa Rica because we only had one session before the Ecuador game. He's hit the ground running straight away. He's made known his expectations and the boys have implemented and taken on board everything that Ange has asked. Even the Ecuador game, you couldn't ask for more commitment than the boys showed. The Costa Rica camp, being a little bit longer overall, you thought: This is looking very positive.

Ange hasn't had a lot of time with the team, but what changes has he made? What are the main differences between him and Holger?

There's been a few slalling changes and things like that, but I just think he's got us back to playing a way he thinks we all can do and that'll take us forward. Playing in a positive way and in a modern way which you really look forward to. I think we as a group, and I know with the boys, the intensity around the whole environment now has gone up another level, which is really what you want coming into the national team.

A lot of new players have been selected in recent matches, how have they settled in?

I'd probably ask them that, but there's been a lot of new faces around [illegible] and one thing I learnt is that the environment is always an easy environment to come into. That's just from the team. The team culture has been around for many years and everyone can put everything aside once they come into camp and it was no different this time. You make everybody welcome, whether they've played 100 games or it's their first camp, you all feel just as welcome. I'm sure everyone will tell you that was the case in both these games.

Who has impressed you in training and in the games?

Being under Ange, the first couple of times a

Mile's a master of interception tackling technique

I think everyone was trying to impress. You know everyone wants to put their best foot forward obviously leading up to such a big time for the national team. I thought everybody, whoever came into camp, the attitude and the commitment shown by everyone - both for the Costa Rica game and even the short turnaround for Ecuador - it was a real team effort. You couldn't fault anyone for not putting in and that's got to be the minimum requirement going forward.

New staff, like Ante Milicic and Craig Moore, as well as Andrew Young and Peter Cklamovski, has seen quite a freshening up of the Socceroos set-up. You've been part of it since 2008. Did it need some new faces and some change?

Yeah probably - looking at it from the outside, circumstances change and that happens in football. Sometimes it can work for the better, and in this case I think it will, and sometimes it goes the other way. But being part of that group, you accept whatever changes are made and you move forward and try to adapt accordingly. Whether or not you're able to adapt remains up to you but I see all the new faces and I see how committed everybody is to the cause and it gets you very excited moving forward, that's for sure.

The World Cup is only a matter of days away now...

It's not a long time at all. I don't like to get ahead of myself too much but it is around the corner and it's going to be upon us very, very quickly.

In 2010 you only played one World Cup game, the opener against Germany. How disappointing was it to only feature in one match?

I had a brief experience of actual game-time at the World Cup and it was an unfortunate day for us. We had a big loss to Germany but, taking the whole experience from that camp at the World Cup, it was something that I'll never forget. It's something that if I ever got another opportunity to be a part of again, I'd give my left arm and left leg for it. It's no different now. I've got the same hunger and drive to succeed and do well.

Australia's World Cup draw is certainly a daunting one - Spain, Holland and Chile. What were your first reactions when you heard the draw?

I remember I was watching it at home, I was in the middle of doing family stuff, and I saw the draw and - was like, wow, that's pretty exciting. Obviously it's tough, but I think that's something that we as a group have to look forward to. It's going to be a great experience and now with the national team moving forward, it's got me very excited.

What will it be like to face Spain, the current World Cup and Euro holders, and arguably one of the best teams of all time?

Not just them, you look at all three group games and they're top quality opposition. You rattle off all these titles and accolades that these teams have got and it is quite impressive but I know from personal experience you can't put too many teams up on a pedestal too much. You give them respect, that's normal, but there's still a game of football to be played and I think going forward that's the thought process and the mentality that a lot of the boys will have. It will be great to come up against these teams but we need to go out and do a job as well. ▸

Mile the Mariner

Eight years ago Mile Jedinak was at a crossroads. Playing in the NSW State League for Sydney United, he had previously represented the Young Socceroos and had gone on loan briefly to Croatian club Varteks.

But the Hyundai A-League had seemed to pass him by. Combining playing football part-time and working for his father's building business, Jedinak's dreams of professional football looked dead and buried.

Enter Central Coast Mariners foundation coach Lawrie McKinna. A former Sydney United assistant, McKinna took a call from a Sydney United official who had recommended the Scotsman take a look at the young defensive midfielder.

"I invited him up for training and he probably trained for a good three months, between two and three days a week where he wasn't getting paid," McKinna said.

"He kept basically knocking on the door at training. We only had one or two spots left and we played Brisbane Roar up at Toowoomba in a pre-season game and we took Mile because you could play a certain number of trialists.

"But Mile got sick the night before the game and he couldn't actually play. We had to leave him at the hotel. He never actually made an appearance.

"He kept training and I never knew that, but, at the time, he was ready to pull the pin on it, because he just had to concentrate on his work. I went to him that day and said I could get him a deal with an injury contract because nobody had got injured.

"I spoke against Newcastle Jets and thought he did well. Once the injury replacement period ended, we signed him on a full contract and then he just got better and better as the season went on."

McKinna gave Jedinak a chance and the opportunity with [illegible] and he's followed Jedinak thrived [illegible] ing the club to the 2007/08 Socceroo cap in 2006. The midfield general made 45 appearances for the Mariners and scored eight goals over a two-year period.

"He's a quiet guy but he did his talking on the football park," McKinna remembers. "Big and powerful, he was great in the air, he controlled and dominated the midfield. As the season went on, he got better and better and he scored a few fantastic goals for us."

In 2009 Jedinak was on his way to Turkey with Genclerbirligi. After an early loan spell with Antalyaspor, he made his name in the Turkish Super League. In 2011 he then headed to England with Championship side Crystal Palace. At the end of just his second season with the Eagles, Jedinak made it into the English Premier League.

McKinna hasn't been surprised to see Jedinak's career take off: "When he got the chance to go to Turkey, it was a great opportunity for him. He stepped right up straight away. He handled it easily and going to the Turkish league is not easy.

"When he had the chance and went to Crystal Palace, I remember when they were still in the Championship, there was interest in him from Premier League clubs. It doesn't really surprise me because, depending on how much you put in, it's what you get out of it. And Mile always put 100 percent in.

"If you've got a good enough attitude then you've got the raw ingredients. He was strong, he was a good passer, he was a good leader. If you put all the ingredients in, you've got a chance."

McKinna describes Jedinak as a natural leader and believes the 29-year old will make a great captain for Australia in the future: "I'm sure in the Socceroos he's not one of these loud people in the dressing room he's just someone who's gained respect from what he's done on the field and on the training field.

"Obviously Ange Postecoglou's saw that to make him captain. After the World Cup Mile will only be 29, he's still got a good few years left to represent the national team so I'm sure Ange will be looking down the track, regardless of who's the captain at the World Cup."

Jedi at the centre of things
Below: World Cup celebrations

Can we get through this group, or is it all about showing pride in the shirt and what Australian football is all about?

It's hard to say at the moment where you have expectations in terms of getting through groups. We haven't even kicked a ball yet. It's hard to say at this stage, all you can you can say is pride goes without question. That's a minimum requirement. Whatever happens after that is up to us and how the games pan out. It's great that we're going to have this preparation camp and we'll be able to work on a lot of things that will put us in good nick going forward.

You were given the Socceroos armband for the Ecuador match, that must have been a huge honour.

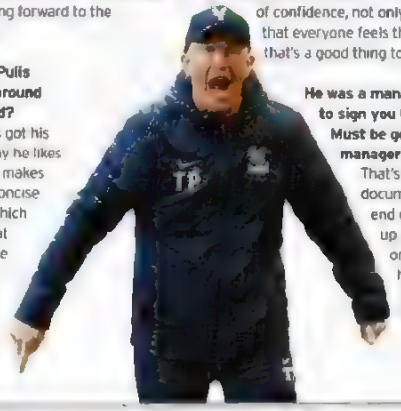
Absolutely, it goes without saying. It's probably one of, if not the biggest, moments and one of the proudest moments I've ever felt in my life, definitely in my football career. It was something that was thrust upon me and something that I took really seriously and it was a great, great experience.

Did Ange talk to you about skippering the side in Brazil, or was it game-by-game situation at that stage?

No, it was for that game. Going forward what that means, I didn't really know. I don't think the manager had made any decisions or anything like that. Everyone understands the situation and we move forward. You just want to be part of it all.

It's been a difficult season for Crystal Palace, your first in the Premier League. How have you found it?

It's had its ups and downs. Overall the experience has been great, I've enjoyed every moment of it, helping keep Crystal Palace up and stay in the Premier League for the first time in history. We're always against great teams and great players, but we've shown we can hold our own. Everyone at the club is looking forward to the next challenge.

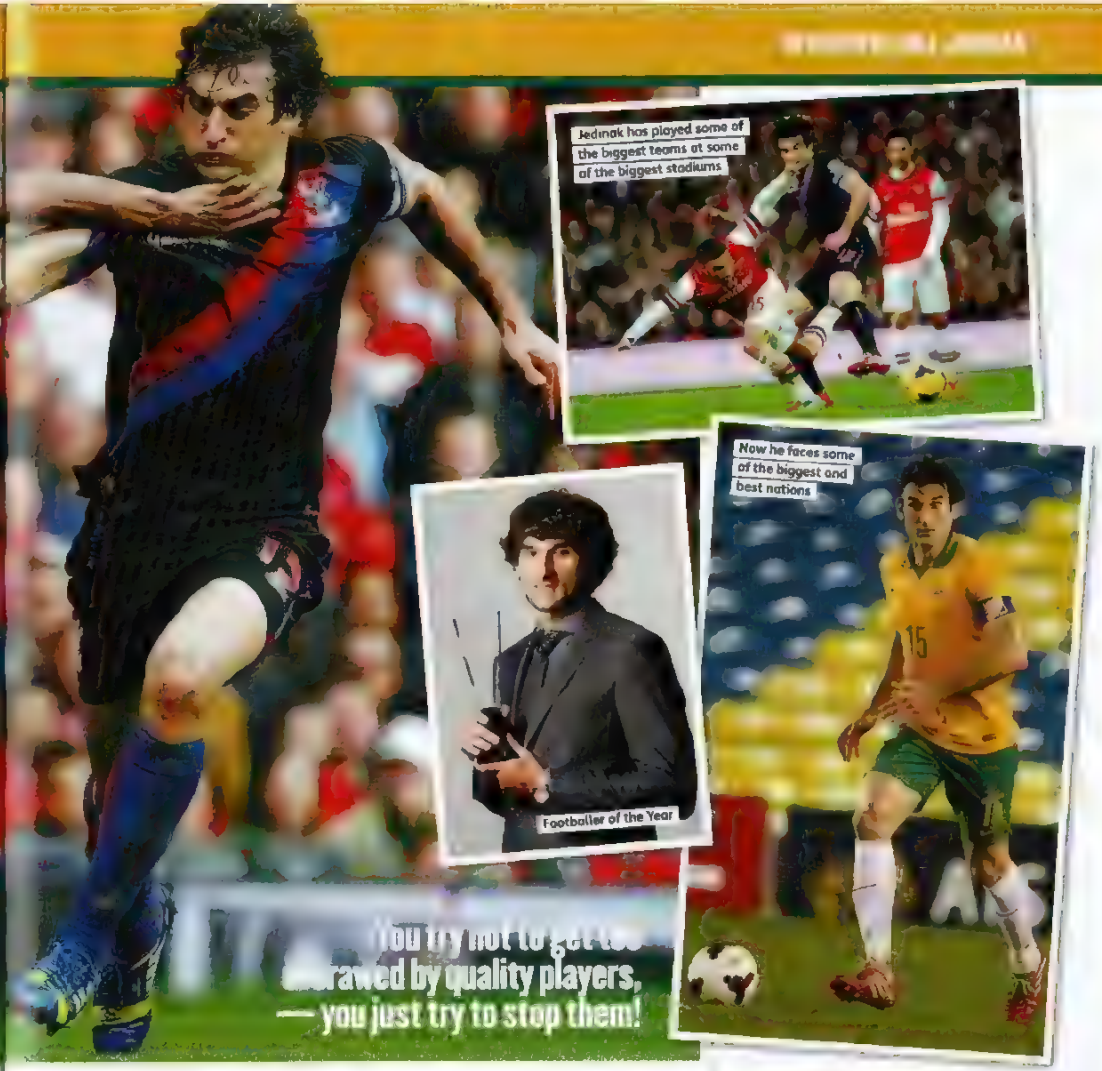


How has Tony Pulis turned things around since he arrived?

The gaffer has got his style and the way he likes to do things. He makes that clear and concise straight away, which is great and what we needed at the time. I'm sure he's got great experience in the Premier League... that gives you a lot of confidence, not only in him but I know that everyone feels the same way and that's a good thing to have.

He was a manager who tried to sign you before for Stoke. Must be good to know the manager has faith in you?

That's well known and documented but at the end of the day, it's still up to you to perform on the pitch. I know his style and I know the way he likes to manage, if it was any other way and you weren't putting in the performances, he wouldn't hesitate making changes. There's a lot of confidence going forward. There's a lot of belief in the club and the people here, my teammates and the coaching staff, everybody involved.



Jedinak has played some of the biggest teams at some of the biggest stadiums

Footballer of the Year

Now he faces some of the biggest and best nations

It's been a terrific season; you've been in good form and signed a new three and half year deal with the club. Has the Premier League lived up to your expectations?

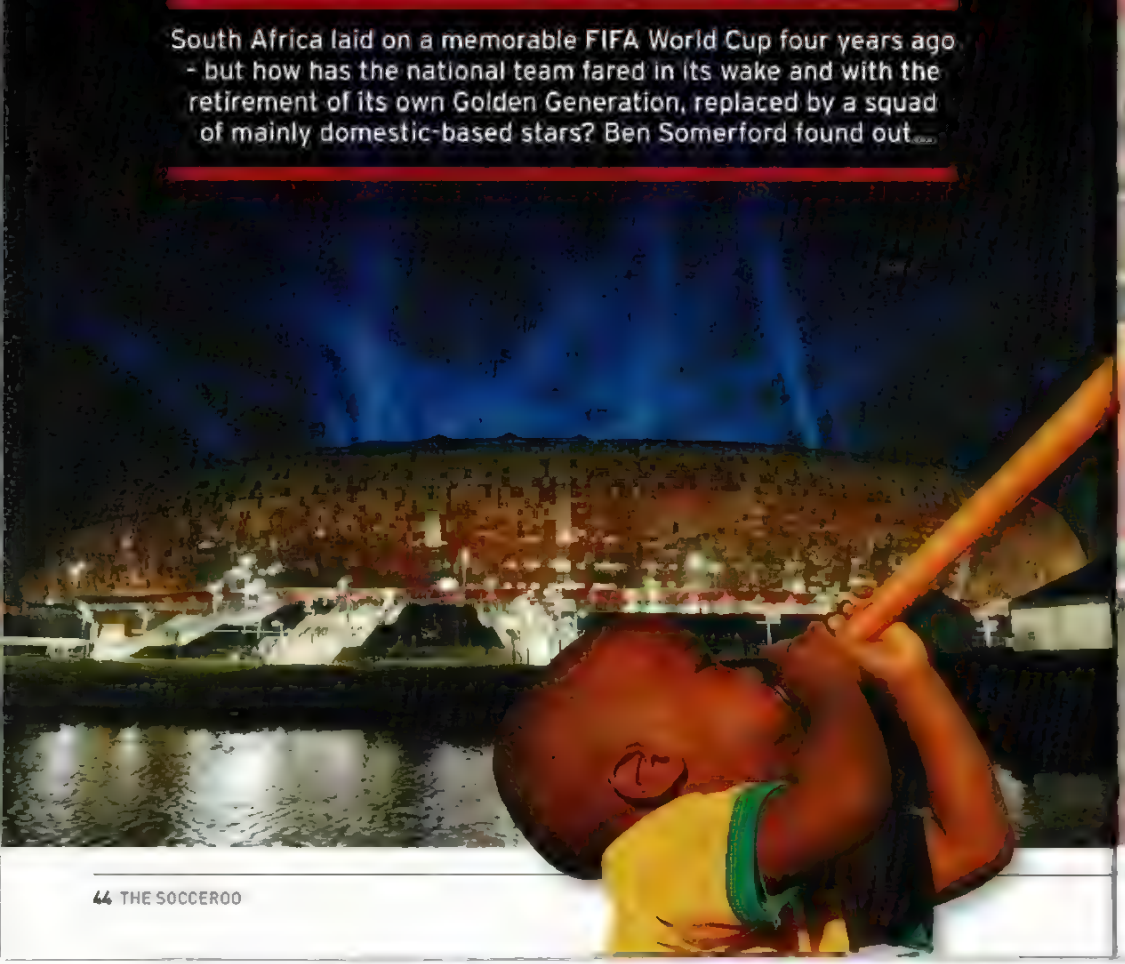
Absolutely. It's watched everywhere in the world, it's watched in Australia all the time with the games live. I can honestly say having tasted the experience now, it's where you want to be and play your football. The following is unbelievable. The buzz around the stadiums and even from last year when we got promotion, it seems like everything has gone up another level, which is great and fantastic. But the key is to try and maintain that, and continue to try to stay up in the Premier League.

This season you've played at Old Trafford, the Emirates and Anfield. You've faced Rooney, Gerrard, van Persie and Suarez. What's it been like playing against some of the world's best players in some of those massive, historic stadiums?

Touching on the stadium-side, they're grounds that you've watched on TV countless number of times and you wonder what's that like to play there, and to actually experience it has been phenomenal. I obviously try not to get too overawed by it all but it's great to admire these sorts of things. As far as playing against top quality opposition, that's always a good thing to look back on down the track. You've tested yourself against this player and that player, but I think being involved in it all, you try not to get too overawed by any of the opposition because you know all players at this level are quality. You get the ones that are getting all the reviews, and doing really well and are in fine form, and that's great to see. But when you're out there, you forget that, you're trying to stop them. It's been great, it's something that you've got a taste of now and you want to maintain. ⊙

SOUTH AFRICA'S 2010 LEGACY

South Africa laid on a memorable FIFA World Cup four years ago - but how has the national team fared in its wake and with the retirement of its own Golden Generation, replaced by a squad of mainly domestic-based stars? Ben Somerford found out...



Four years ago Siphiwe Tshabalala ushered in priceless scenes of unbridled joy in South Africa when he unleashed a stunning left foot strike which was the opening goal of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in the Rainbow Nation.

Bafana Bafana drew 1-1 with Mexico in that memorable match but ultimately they became the first host nation to miss out on a place in the knockout stages, despite a 2-1 win over 1998 winners France. Regardless of that though, it was an exciting ride for the colourful and vuvazela-bearing South African football fans who flocked to watch their side.

In the four years since, there's been much debate about the legacy of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa on a financial and social level. However, there's also the question of what long-term benefits the tournament has brought the national team in terms of progress and development.

There's been few highs for Bafana Bafana since the 2010 FIFA World Cup and many lows, arguably none worse than when they mistakenly celebrated qualification for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations after getting their calculations wrong on what was required, holding out for a 0-0 draw with Sierra Leone when a win was actually needed.

A coaching merry-go-round saw Carlos Alberto Parreira departing after the 2010 FIFA World Cup and his assistant, Pitso Mosimane, elevated to the top job for the apparent sake of continuity and stability. However, Mosimane was axed in June 2012 after the AFCON qualifying travesty and a run of seven games without a win where goals were few and far between.

Gordon Igesund, who had set a record by coaching four different clubs to South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) titles, took over from Mosimane charged with the responsibility of leading Bafana Bafana at the 2013 AFCON on home turf and reviving their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification bid.

Ultimately, Igesund failed to deliver on both fronts, with Bafana Bafana bowing out in the quarter-finals at the 2013 AFCON and finishing second behind Ethiopia in their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying group. The side's performance was wholehearted but the results were disappointing, leading to more doubts about the top coaching position in South Africa.

Now there are more pertinent questions being asked by the South African media and general public, with frustration that the constant coaching changes are ▶

Amazing fans and great football created a spectacular 2010 FIFA World Cup

Siphiwe Tshabalala sparked joy with the opening goal of 2010 but their tilt ended in tears

perceived quick fixes over a more holistic issue of the junior age group structures for youth development and unfulfilled promises of improved facilities for players from disadvantaged areas which are ultimately leading to a player pool inferior to rival African nations.

The reality is at the conclusion of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, South Africa were ranked 66th in the world and currently they are only one spot higher. The team hasn't progressed and the same old issues continue to dog the side, who haven't qualified in their own right for a FIFA World Cup since the golden generation of 1998 and 2002. South Africa have also failed in their past two AFCON qualification campaigns, only making 2013 as hosts.

It's a painful record for a nation which appeared on the brink of continental greatness in the 1990s when their golden generation came through, leading to the breakthrough 1996 African triumph and their first-ever FIFA World Cup qualification for France 1998 where they finished with two draws and only one defeat, against the eventual champions, Les Bleus. The side were AFCON runners-up to Egypt in 1998 and finished third in 2000, before claiming their first-ever FIFA World Cup win and going within a whisker of the knockout stages in 2002 in South Korea.

Bafana Bafana came from two goals behind to draw with Paraguay in their opening match in the 2002 FIFA World Cup thanks to strikes from future Blackburn and Portsmouth defender Aaron Mokoena and then-Manchester United midfielder Quinton Fortune.

Siyabonga Nomvethe's fortunate finish saw off Slovenia 1-0 in their second game, setting up their chance at Round of 16 qualification where any result against Spain would have seen them through.

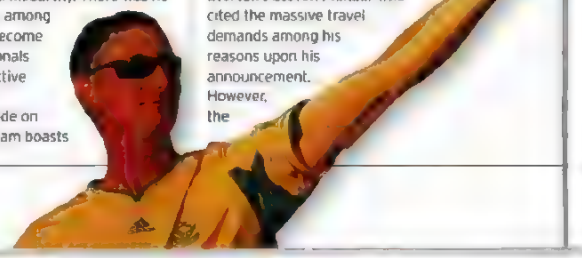
Twice they came from behind to level against the Spaniards, before the brilliant Raul netted on 56 minutes to clinch a 3-2 win. The result sent South Africa towards the exit door, but merely on goals scored, as Paraguay came from behind at half-time to defeat Slovenia 3-1.

Back then, South Africa boasted a squad full of talent, including players like Fortune, Lucas Radebe, Mark Fish, Eric Tinkler, Pierre Issa, Shaun Bartlett, Phil Masinga, Delron Buckley, Bradley Carnell, Sibusiso Zuma, Mokoena and Benni McCarthy. There was no shortage of quality among a group who had become seasoned professionals in their own respective European careers.

More than a decade on and the national team boasts only a handful of footballers currently plying their trade in Europe. The bulk of the Bafana Bafana regulars are domestic-based, with the likes of Crystal Palace's Kagisho Dikgacoi and Ajax Amsterdam's Thulani Serero the exception to the rule.

While experienced players such as striker Bernard Parker and left-back Tsepo Masilela have spent several years in Europe, they've also enjoyed plenty of time plying their trade in their homeland. Two of the current side's most capped players, 26-year-old goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune and 2010's hero Tshabalala, now 29, have spent their entire careers in South Africa.

To be fair, since the 204 FIFA World Cup, South Africa has seen Mokoena, Nomvethe and McCarthy (all in the country's top four most capped players) retire from the national team, along with Everton's Steven Pienaar who cited the massive travel demands among his reasons upon his announcement. However, the lack of talent coming through and graduating into Europe, unlike seen in most top African nations, is worrying. South Africa's PSL is a relatively strong competition in Africa, with Johannesburg-based Orlando Pirates reaching the CAF Champions League final last year, but there is criticism for the lack of a technical plan for the league to provide the prototype for the style of play wanted in the Rainbow Nation. The quality of coaching for talent making its way through the system is varied, through there being no framework in place. Critics say there is no concerted plan or curriculum to develop the national team through the PSL, with no reserve league and many clubs not having academies, leading to hit-and-miss results.



South Africa now has no Premier League stars like Steven Pienaar

In January this year, South African Sports Minister Fikile Mbalula labeled Bafana Bafana "useless" and "a bunch of losers". While arguably a man of his office shouldn't have made the remarks, Mbalula's outburst resonated with many South Africans frustrated by the national team's continued struggles. The comments came after South Africa's failure at the 2014 African Nations Championship (CHAN) on home turf where Bafana Bafana failed to get out of their group against Mali, Nigeria and Mozambique.

The African Nations Championship is a tournament for only domestic-based players, and South Africa's failure showed that it wasn't their lack of European talent which was harming the national team's chances of success. It shone a spotlight on South Africa's talent development system which was shown to be failing and as a result, players were being denied a chance to take their game to the next level.

Former Leeds United defender and 70-times South Africa international Lucas Radebe came out in 2012 and publicly claimed Bafana Bafana needed to be progressing on the back of the 2010 FIFA World Cup but were instead going backwards. His remarks, again, resonated with the general public. Soon after, SAFA's answer was to sack Mosimane.

So often a change of coach has been seen as the fix for Bafana Bafana's ills and Igesund has been under pressure in recent months following the side's CHAN failures. Firstly, Igesund received a stay of execution despite the poor results, but an official SAFA probe, which ultimately got ugly, followed allegations he encouraged the players to strike over bonuses ahead of the tournament.

South Africa's most successful domestic coach has so far survived the axe, boosted by a famous 1-0 win over full-strength world champions Spain in Johannesburg in November last year where the experienced Parker got the winner. However, already current Iran boss, former Manchester United assistant and ex-South Africa coach Carlos Queiroz has been heavily linked with Igesund's position after the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Queiroz had guided Bafana Bafana to the 2002 FIFA World Cup but quit in the lead-up to the event due to behind-the-scenes political issues.

Since the 2002 FIFA World Cup, Bafana Bafana has had 10 coaches, including caretaker managers. The opportunity for the national team and programme to settle has been rare. Change seems a constant. Time seems a rarity for national team coaches. However, few South Africans believe that is even close to the solution to the national team's lack of progress - rather that it's symptomatic of deep-seated problems. ●

THULANI'S TIME TO SHINE

South Africa's biggest star in the current squad Thulani Serero is making a name for himself in Europe – but he will need to impress for his country to win over fans back home in the Rainbow Nation, says Ben Somerford

Pocket rocket Thulani Serero is following in the footsteps of South African superstars Benni McCarthy and Steven Pienaar in every sense.

As a promising 24-year-old, he is Bafana Bafana's great hope and his rise has been remarkably similar to McCarthy and Pienaar's, all coming through Ajax Cape Town's youth ranks before moving on to blossom at Dutch giants Ajax Amsterdam. But one other thing all three have in common is issues over their perception in their homeland.

On a career level, it remains to be seen what's next for the promising 24-year-old attacking midfielder. After helping Ajax to the 2013/14 Eredivisie title and netting in the club's shock 2-1 UEFA Champions League win over Barcelona in November, it is foreseeable he could soon end up in one of Europe's top leagues like his predecessor pair did.

Soweto-born Serero made his mark at Ajax this term following the departure of Christian Eriksen to Tottenham, going on to make 40 appearances and net five times in all competitions.

Serero's positional sense and creativity combined with a relentless desire to track back and reclaim possession made him a favourite with Ajax boss Frank de Boer. In fact, after two injury-cursed seasons, his rise in 2013/14 was so impressive, de Boer labelled him "the beating heart of the team".

However, Serero's determination to succeed at club level created friction in his homeland last September. Bafana Bafana coach Gordon Igesund and national team fans were left

furious ahead of a must-win FIFA World Cup qualifier against Botswana when he reportedly told the team doctor he didn't want to play out of fear of risking an injury ahead of a "big Champions League game in Holland next week, which he couldn't afford to miss".

Serero went on to deny the claims but the situation left his reputation in tatters in the Rainbow Nation, with Igesund immediately releasing him from the squad. Bafana Bafana supporters expressed their sentiments angrily at Serero's attitude.

The 175cm-tall midfielder was disciplined by being left out of several squads, including the memorable 1-0 home win over a full-strength Spain, before earning a recall for March's friendly against Brazil in the place of his idol where he wore the number 10 shirt and pulled the strings.

Serero burst on to the scene in 2010 when he swept the top individual South African Premier Soccer League awards, earning his €2.5 million Amsterdam switch.

But his former coach at Ajax Cape Town Foppe De Haan is quick to remind him that it did not come without a lot of hard work.

"At the beginning, Thulani Serero was a little bit lazy and not working hard. His attitude was also not right for a professional player," De Haan told the *Cape Times*.

"He was really talented, but he didn't use his talent. He didn't work on it, and in the beginning he wasn't really interested.

"He didn't like it, it was hard work for him but I think he started to realise his own potential and started to work hard.

"But I think it was only when he went to Ajax Amsterdam – early in the last season – and he saw [illegible] professional player."

Serero agrees and credits [illegible] Eredivisie for aiding the [illegible] he gone, while observers have noted [illegible] suits to potentially slotting into Arsenal [illegible] his current Dutch contract runs [illegible] 2015, if not before.

"It's quite intense [illegible] and attack," Serero [illegible] recently about [illegible] my all-round [illegible] much better player now.

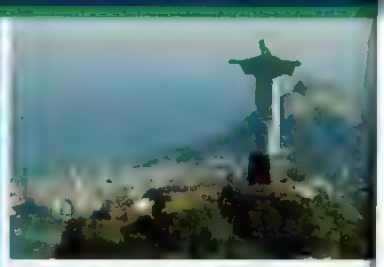
"[illegible] that does cost [illegible] to impose himself [illegible] ment. But now [illegible]

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN BRAZIL

THE SOCCEROOS SAMBA MISSION

The Socceroos' journey to the 2014 FIFA World Cup is a multi-million dollar operation involving months of preparation and careful planning. John Davidson runs the rule over Australia's Brazilian mission and what's in store for the team and the fans.

Vitoria will play host to the Socceroos



The Socceroos training facilities

THE LOCATION

The eastern coastal city of Vitoria will be the home of the Socceroos for the tournament. The capital of the state of Espirito Santo, with a population of around 300,000, Vitoria is a tropical location well known for its island waterways, warm temperatures and hilly surrounds. Vitoria is not hosting any FIFA World Cup matches and will be an ideal oasis for the Australian team before the competition starts and in between games. With its bustling, scenic beaches, the city will be the perfect place for the Socceroos to prepare for their massive Group B challenge.

The Socceroos will depart from Sydney and arrive in Vitoria on May 28. On June 2, the Socceroos' final 23 man squad will be announced. On June 5, the team will fly to Salvador to face Croatia, their 2006 FIFA World Cup opponents in Germany, for their final warm-up match before the tournament kicks off. The Croatia match will take place at Salvador's Pituacu Stadium.

In Vitoria, the Socceroos will train at the Estádio Engenheiro Alencar de Araripe, which has recently been upgraded. The stadium, which is the home of Desportiva Ferroviaria, was built in 1966 and can hold more than 22,000 people. That will be where Ange Postecoglou's men will take their final field sessions, drills and practice runs before the opening Chile match on June 13.

The Estádio Engenheiro Alencar de Araripe is a short drive from Hotel Ilha do Boi, the Socceroos' digs for their Brazilian stay. The five-star hotel, located on top of a small island and giving great coastal views, will be taken over completely by the large Australian contingent. It has a tennis court, swimming pool, sauna, gym, solarium, conference rooms, its own marina and several bars and restaurants. The Socceroos won't want for anything and the players have requested that a selection of newspapers from around the world be available each day at the hotel.

Australia will fly from their Vitoria base camp into Cuiaba the day before the June 13 (June 14 AEST) opener with Chile. Cuiaba is located near Brazil's western border with Bolivia and is around 2000km from Vitoria. The Socceroos will leave Cuiaba immediately after the Chile match and return to Vitoria for the next two days. On June 16, they travel to Porto Alegre for their June 18 (June 19 AEST) clash with the Netherlands. Porto Alegre is on Brazil's southern coast, towards Uruguay and is also roughly 2000km from Vitoria. Again, the Socceroos will leave straight for Vitoria after the match, until their final group game against Spain in Curitiba on June 23 (June 24 AEST). Demonstrating the vastness of the Brazilian land mass, Curitiba is around 1270km from Vitoria, south of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo but north of Porto Alegre, the Socceroos will meet Spain at Curitiba's recently renovated Arena da Baixada.

Former Socceroo Craig Moore will be advisor in Brazil

THE STAFF

Supporting the players in Brazil will be a host of staff, coaches and officials to ensure everything runs smoothly. Ange Postecoglou has come in and brought in new backroom staff to help regenerate the Socceroos squad.

One of his main assistants will be Ante Milicic, who will be Postecoglou's number two. The former Socceroo has been Tony Popovic's righthand man for the past two Hyundai A-League seasons and has helped Western Sydney Wanderers achieve some impressive results. A quiet but shrewd operator, the 40-year will be an invaluable part of Postecoglou's coaching set-up. Also providing assistance to the Socceroos will be Peter Cklamovski, Alan McCall, Mal Implombato, Aurelio Vidmar, Tony Franken and Craig Moore. Vidmar, Franken and Moore are all ex-Socceroos, with Moore playing for Australia at South Africa 2010.

Moore will serve as an advisor and ambassador for the Socceroos, while Franken will be goalkeeping coach. Vidmar was an assistant to Holger Osieck and continues in his position. Cklamovski, McCall and Implombato are recent additions to the Socceroo staff, with Cklamovski appointed as a conditioning coach and match analyst and McCall hired to boost the as sports science and conditioning area.

Cklamovski was most recently with Melbourne Victory, while McCall worked in the sports science departments of Liverpool and Lille. Implombato previously served as Wellington Phoenix's football operations manager before joining the FFA as national club development manager. Rounding out Postecoglou's core team is Doctor Mark Jones, chief physiotherapist Les Gells and former Sydney FC media manager David Mason.

THE OPPONENTS

SPAIN

Xavi, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Cesc Fabregas, Iker Casillas, David Villa, Fernando Torres, Sergio Ramos, Gerard Pique. It may look like a FIFA All-stars team, but it's just some of the players Australia will face when they take on Spain on June 23 in Cuntiba. The Socceroos have a massively daunting task when they come up against the reigning world and European champions, who beat the Netherlands in the 2010 FIFA World Cup final and Italy in the UEFA Euro 2012. Vicente del Bosque's men have legitimate claims to being the best national side world football has ever seen, let alone just the best team in the world for the past six years. Winning back-to-back UEFA European Championships and a FIFA World Cup lead to these kinds of accolades, and another tournament victory in Brazil would probably make the argument a moot point. Spain are many people's favourites to be holding the trophy up in triumph in Brazil for many reasons, but mainly because they have a freakishly talented side, depth across every position and the experience of winning before. They are led by an excellent and experienced coach, they have leaders across the park, enjoy a united team spirit and they play a beautiful yet effective style of football. They have no apparent weaknesses. With a core of Barcelona's tiki-taka kings at their heart, La Furia Roja also boast key players from Real Madrid, Manchester United, Manchester City, Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Arsenal. Del Bosque has brilliantly brought this cavalcade of stars together and got them working together. When the Socceroos play Spain expect the Europeans to dominate possession and bedazzle with their speedy passing triangles, superior pressing and amazing touch. Any result against the Spaniards, let alone a one or two goal loss, will be some achievement for Australia against a team that will live long in the history books for decades to come.

NETHERLANDS

With a Dutch technical director and having had two Dutch national team coaches in the past eight years, Australia knows a fair bit ▶

Spain: Every one a householdname

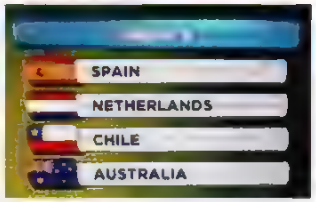
Robin van Persie's Dutch side have plenty to prove

about Dutch football. Many of our footballers have successfully plied their trade in the Eredivisie over the years, most notably Brett Emerton, Graham Arnold, Jason Culina and Brett Holman.

Today, current Socceroos Tommy Oar, Jason Davidson and Adam Sarota all earn their keep playing the game in the Netherlands. But familiarity doesn't mean the Dutch won't be dangerous opponents, or that the Oranje will go easy on us. The Netherlands were almost world champions four years ago, when they were pipped by Spain by a solitary goal, and this time they want to go one better.

It is a country with football embedded in its DNA, a land devoted to the round-ball game and one that routinely spits out brilliant, technically-proficient footballers. Arjen Robben, Robin van Persie, Wesley Sneijder and Rafael van der Vaart are some of the fine attackers Louis Van Gaal can call on, along with goalkeepers such as Tim Krul and Michel Vorm, and midfielders like Nigel de Jong and Jordy Clasie.

The Dutch are expected to go through to the next round, in second place after Spain, and they clash with the Socceroos on June 18 aiming to take the full three points. Remarkably, considering Oranje's pedigree and history of boasting world-class players,



Australia's recent record against the Dutch is not too bad. The Socceroos have played the Netherlands three times in the past eight years and not lost a game.

In 2009 the two teams played out a draw in Sydney and in 2008 Australia recorded a 2-1 win in Eindhoven. In 2006 the two countries battled it out for a 1-1 draw. But those were friendlies and this is the FIFA World Cup. There will no margin for error, no trying out of new players, no substitution of six players at half-time. In Brazil, there will be everything to play for and Oranje will be gunning for the Socceroos' scalp.

CHILE

Some pundits are viewing Chile as the weakest of Australia's three opponents, the game the Socceroos must win if there is absolutely any chance of progression to the next round. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. This Chilean side is ranked 13th in the world for a good reason, they are not to be underestimated. In November they humbled England at home at Wembley and they will be tough competitors in the heat and humidity of their own continent.

With Marcelo Diaz and Arturo Vidal pulling the strings in midfield, Alexis Sanchez patrolling the right flanks and Gary Medel breaking up attacks at the back, La Roja will present a massive challenge. They press high up the pitch and former boss Marcelo Bielsa's coaching blueprint is still evident under Jorge Sampaoli.

The Chileans play a fast, free-flowing attacking brand of football with fullbacks making runs and a fluid forward line that is very interchangeable. Chile will present a banana skin to whoever they play, not only to Australia but to the Spanish and Dutch as well.

The Socceroos have not played against La Roja since 2000, under Frank Farina, but none of our past meetings with the South American country in the past 18 years have gone well. In 2000 the Socceroos were beaten 2-1, in 1998 it was 1-0 and in 1996 Australia went down 3-0. The Socceroos will need to be on top of their game if their Cuiaba meeting with Chile on June 13 is to bear any fruit.

Australia's opening opponents Chile will be a tough test

Kewell the fresh faced youngster in 1999

Kewell had his swansong with Melbourne Heart, a year after quitting Victory

Germany 2006 and Kewell equalises against Croatia

Kewell was just 17 when he made his Socceroos debut

Kewell was still agile and lethal against the Netherlands in 2009

HANGING UP THEIR BOOTS

WORDS KATHY STONE

IT'S been a glittering roll call of retirements for the Golden Generation of 2006 and 2010 this year with some of the most treasured names in Australian football history calling time on their careers.

Chief among them arguably was golden boy Harry Kewell, 35, who retired in March. A month later, 2010 FIFA World Cup hero Brett Holman, 30, left the Socceroos to concentrate on his club career.

Persistent back problems forced Brett Emerton, 35, out of the game in January, and recent Hyundai A-League stars and retired 'Roos Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns brought the final curtain down on their playing days too.

National team boss Ange Postecoglou also revealed long-serving skipper Lucas Neill, 36, had missed the cut for Brazil (although he has not yet officially retired from the Socceroos).

Like Mark Schwarzer who ended his international career shortly before the Socceroos' friendly against Costa Rica in November, ex-Socceroo Jason Culina also hung up his boots last year and knows what lies in store for the recent retirees.

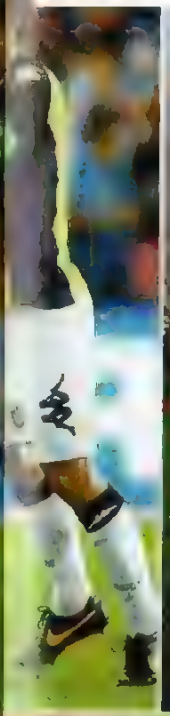
"I don't need to think anything when I hear those names – I just get chills in my body," Culina said.

"Those guys at the 2006 FIFA World Cup helped paved the way. They put our names in

Jacob Burns earned 11 caps with the Socceroos and became a Hyundai A-League legend

Mile Sterjovski was part of the 2006 FIFA World Cup team to face Brazil in Germany

Brett Emerton brought EPL experience to the Socceroos and later also to Sydney FC



Mark Schwarzer took off his gloves as the most capped Socceroo

Jason Culina's career was cut short by injury

Mercurial Brett Holman experienced the highs and lows of the Socceroos

out there for the rest of the world and we gained a lot of respect from that."

If there is a painless way to say goodbye to the Socceroos Culina hasn't heard of it.

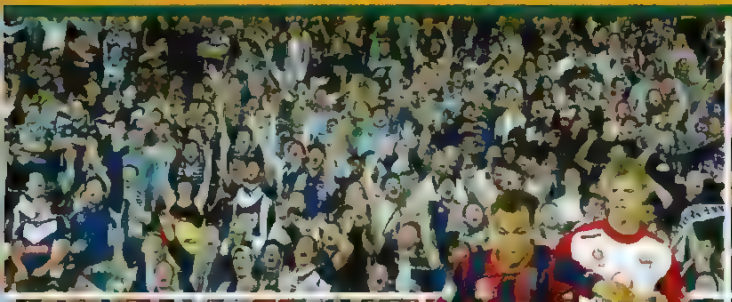
"Someone asked me just the other day whether I miss playing, and yeah I do," he said. "I loved the rivalry, I loved the competition and I don't think I'll ever lose that.

"Some people retire when they feel the time is right. Some like to hold on and some of us, like me, get forced into a decision through injury or other reasons.

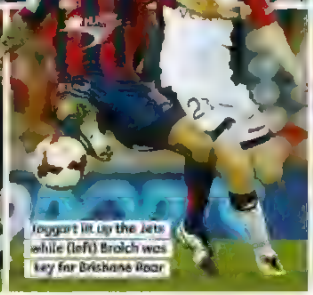
"It's disappointing not to see Mark Schwarzer playing any more for Australia or someone like Lucas being left out because he was our captain for so many years.

"Everyone in their own mind would like a fairytale finish to their career but it doesn't always happen.

"Not everyone hangs up their boots with a smile of their face. But maybe in 10 years when all our kids get older and start asking questions, maybe then we'll remember what we achieved."



Mariners fans blew their own trumpets



Taggart lit up the Jets while (left) Broich was key for Brisbane Roar

Adelaide found their feet midway through the season while (left) Del Piero said goodbye

UNSTOPPABLE ROAR

Phoenix's transitional season gave hope for the future...

Shinji Ono moved on but Western Sydney fans (below) still sing for Wanderers

Record crowds, marquee magicians, free-to-air coverage, foreign takeovers, sacked coaches, beer baths, superstar retirements and the return of the all-conquering Brisbane Roar, the Hyundai A-League 2013/14 season had it all

WORDS BEN SOMERFORD

Building on the great strides of the Hyundai A-League 2012/13, where the arrival of marquee trio Alessandro del Piero, Shinji Ono and Emile Heskey provided the competition with a major jolt in on-field quality, media coverage and crowds, the Hyundai A-League 2013/14 season saw more fans than ever through Hyundai A-League turnstiles.

In total, 1,760,508 fans attended regular season matches - almost twice the figure of season one. The burgeoning popularity of the intra-city rivalries continued, with both the Melbourne and Sydney derbies witnessing record crowds of 45,202 and 40,388 respectively, both in the season's attention-grabbing first month.

FFA boss David Gallop said the "sleeping giant of Australian sport had been awoken" when it sealed a $160 million deal with FOX SPORTS and SBS to put the Hyundai A-League on free-to-air television for the first time. This has proven a milestone for the competition, providing broader reach and emphasising the product's stability and sustainability.

The good news stories didn't end there, with the FFA extending the licences of all Australian Hyundai A-League clubs until 2034 and announcing the advent of the Westfield FFA Cup to commence in July, much to the delight of football fans and ambitious players nationwide.

The dazzle of del Piero continued to amaze fans, but those moments of magic became less frequent with the Italian maestro heading towards 40. Still, ADP garnered many headlines, from speculation on his future to fierce debate about the time he spent on the floor.

The futures of Ono and Heskey also generated discussion, with all three marquees destined for new homes next season. Ono's farewell was a tribute to his impact at the fledgling Western Sydney Wanderers, but also a show of support from the ever-colourful Wanderland.

Following the triple marquee threat, more high-profile stars arrived in 2013/14, including Melbourne Victory's Pablo Contreras, Melbourne Heart's Orlando Engelaar (who probably scored the goal of the season) and Perth Glory's William Gallas, to varying degrees of success.

German genius Thomas Broich shone as Brisbane Roar's marquee, leading them to the Premier's Plate at a canter before becoming joint winner of the Joe Marsden Medal for best on ground in the Hyundai A-League 2014 Grand Final - just days after he was announced the recipient of this season's Johnny Warren Medal. Given that Brisbane Roar also won the Grand Final, it's hard to imagine how Broich's season could have been better.

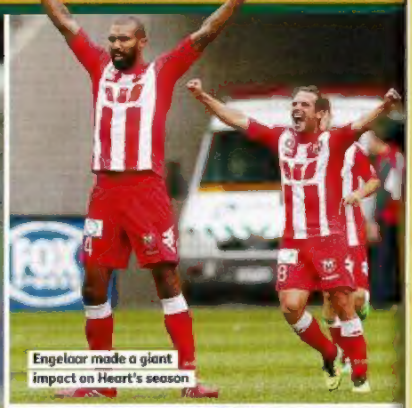
Same goes for Brisbane Roar coach Mike Mulvey who kept his side sat atop the league for 25 of the 27 rounds, illustrating their dominance. The emerging Luke Brattan's spectacular last-gasp goal sealed the Premiership in wonderful style, and while Broich was brilliant, it was big game specialist Besart Berisha who got them into the Grand Final (killing off the hopes of the club Berisha leaves Roar to join next season, Melbourne Victory), and it was Berisha who provided the late equaliser in the Grand Final that got them into extra time.

There were standout individuals, including Jets striker Adam Taggart netting 16 times to be the youngest-ever A-League Golden Boot winner

The Hyundai A-League 2014 Grand Final marked a coming-of-age for the competition. The occasion itself and the on-field contest between Roar and Western Sydney Wanderers was worthy of the name, and it was witnessed by a sell-out Suncorp Stadium crowd of more than 51,000 - an estimated 10,000 of which were Wanderers' fans who made the long trip up from Sydney. ▸

Heart fans are excited by the Manchester City takeover

I'll be back - Gui Finkler has signed a new deal at Victory


Engelaar made a giant impact on Heart's season

While there were confident predictions of a season-two hangover for Western Sydney Wanderers, Tony Popovic's squad was instead almost able to reproduce what they'd achieved in their meteoric debut season. They missed out on the Premier's Plate this time, however, finishing runners up, and were unfortunately destined for back-to-back Grand Final losses. Still, the Wanderers phenomenon rolls on, and such is the team's following that it's not hard to imagine them in the near future hosting an Hyundai A-League Grand Final at a packed-out ANZ Stadium.

Arguably the biggest overseas arrival during the season came from England, when Manchester City acquired Melbourne Heart's licence. Gallop said: "It's another sign that the world is taking notice of Australian football." Exactly what the $11.25 million purchase means for Heart remains to be seen, with talk of a change of name and colours, possibly to sky blue, an idea which has left Sydney FC less than impressed.

The immediate on-field impact of the Man City deal was less murky, as Heart went a Hyundai A-League record-equalling 19 winless games, before going on a run of five victories in six games to end their drought and shoot into finals contention under newly re-appointed coach John van 't Schip.

Van 't Schip replaced John Aloisi in January in an arduous season for coaches. Five coaches were replaced mid-season, while Adelaide United and Wellington Phoenix announced new bosses in pre-season.

Arguably the biggest overseas arrival during the season came from England, when Manchester City acquired Melbourne Heart's licence.

The dismissal of Holger Osieck as Socceroos coach on the Hyundai A-League's opening weekend set the tone with Ange Postecoglou, Graham Arnold and Tony Popovic all linked with the post in the immediate aftermath.

Postecoglou would get the Socceroos job, meaning club stalwart Kevin Muscat replaced him as Victory coach, confirmed on Halloween. In November, Arnold would head off for a lucrative, but ultimately doomed, deal with J-League club Vegalta Sendai, replaced by his right-hand man Phil Moss at Champions Central Coast Mariners.

Perth Glory axed Alistair Edwards in December after a fall-out with senior players over suspicions of nepotism, while Newcastle Jets gave Gary van Egmond the flick after an underwhelming campaign, which saw them miss the finals for the fourth straight year.

Sydney FC boss Frank Farina at least managed to survive all the way through the season before being axed, although he had his troubles with fan protests, reported player unrest and also a mid-match beer bath. The Sky Blues also had an unsavoury incident, when Iraqi midfielder Ali Abbas claimed he was racially vilified in the Sydney derby but eventually the case was dismissed because of a lack of evidence.

There were standout individuals, including 20-year-old Jets striker Adam Taggart netting 16 times to be the youngest-ever Hyundai A-League Golden Boot winner, while Victory's James Troisi returned to Australia with 12 goals and eight assists. However returning Tom Rogic didn't have the same luck during an injury-affected spell at Victory.

Finally, there were goodbyes for a list of retiring ex-Socceroos stars and A-League stalwarts in Brett Emerton, Mile Sterjovski, Jacob Burns and Terry McFlynn.

But the big farewell was for arguably the greatest player Australia has ever produced, Harry Kewell, who finished up with Melbourne Heart in March.

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EDITOR Kevin Airs
ART DIRECTOR Allan Bender
CONTRIBUTORS Ben Somerford, John Davidson, Kathy Stone
PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY Getty Images
PREPRESS MANAGER Jonathan Bishop
PRODUCTION MANAGER Alison Begg
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Carole Jones

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AIS

JASON CULINA'S WORLD CUP XI

The former Socceroo's pick of current stars

GK THIBAUT COURTOIS BELGIUM

Led Atletico to the Champions League final on loan from Chelsea so you'll probably see him in the EPL before too long. A huge guy and, in a very good young Belgium team, certainly someone to watch over the next year.

RB PABLO ZABALETA ARGENTINA

Brings loads of experience to a side. A proven performer in Manchester City. Known as a tough right-back who gets up and down and puts in a strong shift. Nothing too flashy but certainly a good solid team player.

CB THIAGO SILVA BRAZIL

I have to include a Brazilian. Many regard him as one of the all-time greats. I know Zlatan Ibrahimovic labelled him the best central defender in the world. Just a good solid guy, comfortable on the ball and vicious in the challenge.

CB SERGIO RAMOS SPAIN

Among the world's top central defenders. I've gone for a very versatile back line and Ramos can play at right back as well. He is very good on the ball and also quite aggressive in his challenges.

LB PHILIPP LAHM GERMANY

A proven international over many years and one I've actually played against. Can also line up at right back makes him very versatile. Good at attacking, can score goals and has hit the back of the net in a previous World Cup.

RM ARJEN ROBBEN NETHERLANDS

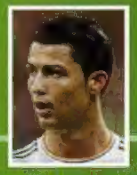
I also played against him in Holland several times. The way he cuts in from that right position onto his left bedevils defenders and he has done it year after year. I think he's matured a lot playing for Bayern Munich. A proven performer.

M LUKA MODRIC CROATIA

One of my favourites and not because he comes from the same background as my family. Fantastic for Real Madrid. You saw glimpses of his quality in 2006 and he just keeps improving. Links up defence and attack beautifully.

M YAYA TOURE IVORY COAST

He provides height and muscle in midfield. Fantastic on the ball, can win headers in midfield and do a bit of the dirty work if needed. You used to rely on the little guys to buzz around, now the big guys are doing it.



LM CRISTIANO RONALDO PORTUGAL

Not much more needs to be said about this player. He scores goals for fun at Real Madrid and is the current World Player of the Year for the second time. You just simply can't name the best team in the world and leave him out.

ST LUIS SUAREZ URUGUAY

There is a YouTube video of me playing for PSV and he's lining up for Ajax and we smashed them 6-2. We both scored. He has been unbelievable for Liverpool this year with the number of goals he scored and created.

ST LIONEL MESSI ARGENTINA

What's left to say about Lionel Messi? He's a goal and dribbling machine and World Player of the Year time after time. Although not in his best form, he has something to prove and I just feel this is his time.

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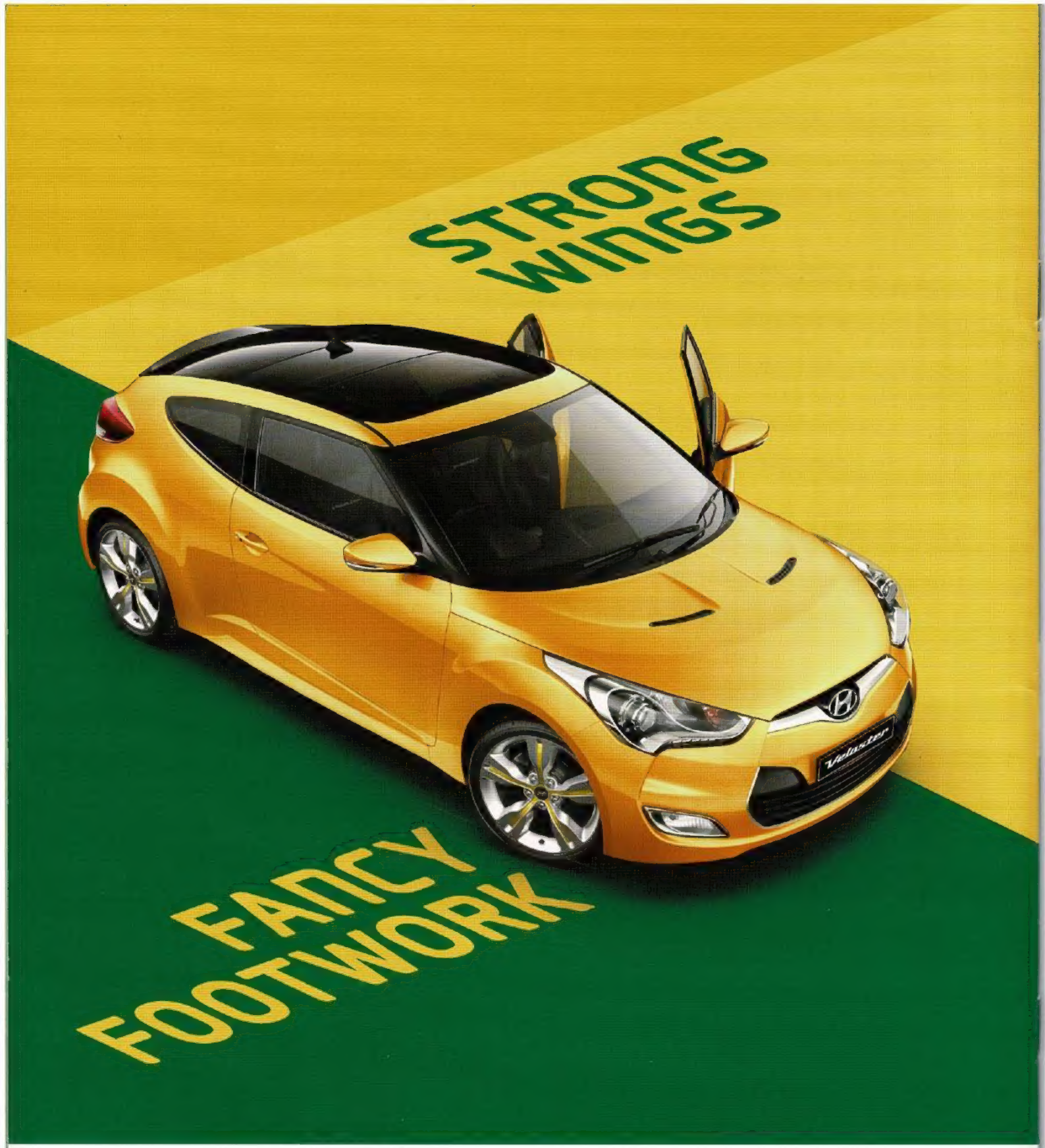
Offer only available to the first 9,000 eligible Australian residents 18+ years who purchase a qualifying Sony TV from a participating Sony Australia authorised dealer between 15/05/14 and 29/06/14. Qualifying Sony TVs are KDL65W850A, KDL70W850B, KDL60W850B, KDL55W800B, KDL55W950B, KD65X9004A, KD55X9004A, KD65X8504A, KD55X8504A, KD65X9000B, KD55X9000B. Prizes delivered within 6 weeks of validation of purchase. Hold onto your original receipt. Full conditions at www.sony.com.au/scoretwice. The Promoter is Sony Australia Limited, ABN 59 001 215 354, of 33-39 Talavera Road, North Ryde NSW 2113. NSW Permit No. LTPS/14/02146. SA Licence No. T14/530. PS4 stand sold separately.



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